

Divine Promises

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Introduction

In Biblical usage, a promise is more than a mere assertion; rather, it involves a solemn declaration to do something, a pledge to perform what is promised, with an attendant obligation to accomplish the thing that is offered.

Promises to Abraham

God's threefold promise to Abraham – involving land, nation and seed – is a key Biblical concept (Gen. 12:1-7; Acts 7:2-5, 17-18; Rom. 4:13, 14, 16, 20, 21; 9:9; Gal. 3:14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 29; 4:23, 28; Heb. 6:15, 17; 7:6; 11:9, 13, 17).

Promises to David

God promised to raise up One of David's descendants, who would sit upon His throne and establish His kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-16; 1 Chron. 17:11-14; Ps. 89:4; 132:11-12; Acts 13:22-23).

Promises to Israel

God made many promises unto Israel, both Messianic and temporal in nature (Acts 13:32-33; 26:6-7; Rom. 9:3-9; 15:7-9; Heb. 11:32-34, 39-40).

Promises to Apostles

Commanding them to remain in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit upon the apostles (Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:32-36).

Promises to Christians

God has made various promises to His people during the present era: physical life (Eph. 6:2), spiritual life (Acts 2:38-41; 2 Tim. 1:1), eternal life (1 John 2:25), eternal inheritance (Heb. 9:15; James 1:12; 2:5), eternal rest (Heb. 4:1), better things (Heb. 8:6), and last things (Heb. 12:25-29; 2 Pet. 3:3-4; 3:9-13).

Conclusion

Sinful men share not in the promises of God (Eph. 2:11-13). They make promises that appeal to fleshly desire (Mark 14:10-11). They make promises they cannot deliver (2 Pet. 2:18-19).

Divine promises encompass the entire Godhead, being connected not only with the Father, but also with the Son (Eph. 3:6) and the Spirit (Eph. 1:13). They are entirely reliable, being rooted in the character of God (2 Cor. 1:20; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:13; 10:23; 11:11). They require cleansing (2 Cor. 7:1), godliness (1 Tim. 4:8), and endurance (Heb. 6:12; 10:36).