

God DOES Keep His Promises!

What are the results for us?

Sunday, 9/9 – 8:00 & 10:45 † Monday, 9/10 – 7 PM

16th Sunday after Pentecost / 15th Sunday after Trinity – 2018

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We make promises, *and we sometimes break them!* Why? Here are two possible reasons: (1) we are no longer *able* to keep them; and / or (2) we no longer have the *desire* to keep them!

Now, what about God and His promises? (1) He is almighty, *so He is always able*; and (2) He does not change, *so His original desire does not fade!*

In this sermon we are going to consider six promises that God made and kept, three have *horrible results* and three have *wonderful results!*

1. **The Destruction of Most People and Animals:** From *the time of creation to the time of the flood* was approximately 1,656 years; even though God had created a perfect world, *the people had become so very sinful:* “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5 ESV).
 - a. Promise made: “‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:7-8 ESV). // Noah was not sinless, *but he believed God’s promise to send the Messiah and his life was different because of it!*

- b. Promise kept: “Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died” (Genesis 7:22 ESV). // God’s threats are not idle; *He did / will follow through!*
2. **God Will Send the Savior**: God had already stated His promise many times to send His Son, but here – *about 700 years before the time of Jesus* – the people were given a way to *specifically identify* the Savior:
- a. Promise made: ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God... will come and save you.” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy (Isaiah 35:4-6 ESV). // That is *one of many ways* given by God to identify the Messiah!
- b. Promise kept: ³² ...they brought to [Jesus] a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.... ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak” (Mark 7:32-35, 37 ESV). // As some today are looking for the second coming of Christ, so – *during Jesus’ life on earth* – some were looking for His first coming! Those who were put 2 and 2 together, *and knew Jesus was the Christ!*
3. **The Fall of Jerusalem**: The LORD had become so upset with the people of the northern kingdom of Israel –

because of their false gods and disobedience – that He permitted the Assyrians to conquer them in 722 BC. The people of the southern kingdom of Judah *should* have taken notice and *turned from their sins*, yet they did not 😞.

- a. Promise made: “...I will make void the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will cause their people to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hand of those who seek their life. I will give their dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the earth” (Jeremiah 19:7 ESV). // A horrible promise, but, *since God is love* (1 John 4:8), did He keep it?
- b. Promise kept: This is what happened when the LORD permitted the Babylonians to conquer Jerusalem, *the capital city of the southern kingdom*: “...a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. And he burned the house of the LORD and the king’s house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down” (2 Kings 25:9 ESV). // Not only that, but *some died and many were taken captive to Babylon!*

4. **God’s Son Will Defeat the Devil:**

- a. Promise made: God made this promise to the devil on the *same day* Adam and Eve fell into sin: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15 ESV). // Jesus was harmed by the devil (**heel**), but the devil was defeated by Jesus (**head**)!
- b. Promise kept: With these words, Jesus declared His victory: “It is finished,” (John 19:30 ESV). // The intention of the devil is to keep us separated from God, *so Jesus removed that separation by removing our sins!* We could say that Jesus crushed the head of the serpent,

thus put him to death. Now, IN CHRIST, we share in Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil!

5. **Those Who DO NOT Repent Will Perish:** What is repentance? God making us sorry for our sins and giving us faith in Jesus! Those who do not repent will perish, *they will be separated from God and in eternal torment!*
- Promise made: Jesus said to His disciples, “...**unless you repent, you will all likewise perish**” (Luke 13:3 NAS).
 - Promise kept: Jesus told what happened to the *unrepentant* rich man, he “...**died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment... he called out... ‘I am in anguish in this flame’**” (Luke 16:22-24 ESV). // But it was too late for him; *for us, now is the moment to be saved!*
6. **Those Who DO Repent Will Be Saved:** *God is merciful!*
- Promise made: “**Repent... that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**” (Acts 3:19 NAS). // No matter how many sins, *they are all covered with Jesus' blood!*
 - Promise kept: Zacchaeus was known by all as a sinner, *yet he declared these words to express his repentance:* “**Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.**’ And Jesus said to him, ‘**Today salvation has come to this house...**’” (Luke 19:1-10 ESV). // Repentance on the inside *will show on the outside!* Let us ever **rejoice** in God's unfailing promises!

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, since You will certainly keep all of Your promises, keep us *far from the horrible results* and *recipients of the wonderful results!*

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