

# ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE

According to the promise given in God's Word, we can have life!

02.04 | 1# Week in Series | Series Title **THE ESSENTIALS**

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Core Scripture: Gal 3:29 “And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”

Summary of Main Points

## WHY READ THE BIBLE?


- **The Scriptures describe God's plan and times.** (sovereignty and lordship implied)
- **The Scriptures declare God's promise to all of us** (salvation for ALL)
- **The Scriptures reveal God's specific promises to me.** (God contextualizes / He's personal and caring and will speak SO specifically to YOU)
- **The Scriptures define eternal truth** (truth is NOT subjective to cultural norms or my emotions)

## // Introduction Ideas

- A fulfilled promise is a powerful thing. I remember when ...



## #1 The Scriptures describe God's PLAN & times.

- God is not surprised by world events. The Bible makes that clear. Reason 1 for reading your Bible.
-  Turn to Gal 3:7-18
- The attacks on Israel over the centuries - God knew. The attempt of a forming a one world government by world

leaders - God knew. Look at this passage and how it describes those who live by faith - not by what they see in the world.

### **Gal. 3:7-18**

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." <sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

#### **The Righteous Shall Live by Faith**

<sup>10</sup> For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." <sup>11</sup> Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." <sup>12</sup> But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— <sup>14</sup> so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

#### **The Law and the Promise**

<sup>15</sup> To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. <sup>16</sup> Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. <sup>17</sup> This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

- Faith is turning the faucet on. Grace is the water. God provides the grace and mercy we need to be saved - not only saved but given promises of blessing. But we MUST go to that faucet and turn it on. We MUST respond to what God's given and receive His grace and walk in His promises!

Gal 3:25-29

<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.



## #2 The Scriptures declare God's promise to all of US

- Galatians 3 / Romans 9 / Romans 6
  - Myths going around today:
    - Only ACTUAL bloodline Jews are saved/Heaven bound
    - Enough good works and I'm going to Heaven for sure! (NICE people...)
    - Rule-Followers go to heaven (no, forgiven people who's only trust in JESUS go to Heaven)
- The Old Testament is not the first half of the Bible where God is "mean" or in a bad mood. It's the SAME GOD who sent Jesus. Jesus fulfills the promise given to Abraham. What do I mean by the word "promise."

**Promise is a powerful word.**

Promise involves commitment to a relationship. A promise is made between two people, as an "I-you" matter. It presupposes a relationship between them; indeed it may cement or forward that relationship, or depend on it. A prediction, on the other hand, may be quite impersonal, or "third-personal, and does not require any relationship between the predictor and the person or persons about whom the prediction is made. A promise may involve some degree of prediction (or expectation), but a prediction need not have anything to do with a promise. A promise is made to someone, whereas a prediction is made about someone. Now in the Old Testament there are plenty of predictions involving the nations beyond Israel. Some of them are surprisingly detailed and even more surprisingly fulfilled in the course of ancient history. But they do not indicate a relationship or any commitment between God and those nations in terms of those predictions. In most cases the nations concerned were most probably unaware of the predictions. So in those cases predictions could be made and fulfilled without any ongoing relationship involved.

It was totally different in the case of the promises God made concerning Israel. There the very existence of Israel was the substance of the promise as it had been first declared to Abraham. And that promise was the rock solid foundation on which the relationship between God and Israel survived in spite of all that threatened it.

To say that the Old Testament declares Gods promise is another way of saying that at a particular time in history God entered into a commitment to a particular man and his descendants. It was a commitment to a relationship between himself and them that involved growth, blessing and protection.

But it involved something else as well, of course—namely, the universal goal of bringing blessing to all nations through the descendants of Abraham. Indeed, sometimes this is emphasized as the very thing that God had promised Abraham. For example, in Genesis 18 the immediate

promise that Abraham and Sarah would have a son within a year is quickly subsumed under the much more long-term and ultimate promise that God would bless all nations through the community that had not yet even begun (cf. Gen 18:19).

In that sense, God's promise to Abraham is in fact a commitment to humanity, not just to Israel. So although, as has just been said, the predictions concerning the other nations in the Old Testament period do not entail any promise or relationship with those nations at that time, the promise of God to Abraham does ultimately encompass humanity, precisely by inviting people from all nations entering into the same saving and covenant relationship with God that Israel currently enjoyed. Israel enjoyed its relationship with God for the purpose of enabling other nations eventually to share in it. So it is perfectly appropriate that when the New Testament authors speak of Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of the Old Testament, they think not just of Israel but also see Jesus as the Savior of the world, or rather see God saving the world through Jesus.

Think of the apostle Paul here. Paul's whole theology of mission was founded on his understanding of the crucial importance of the promise to Abraham and its universal significance. Galatians 3 is a clear witness to this. For Paul, the gospel itself began not with Jesus but with Abraham. What was the good news? Nothing other than God's commitment to bring blessing to all nations of humanity, as announced to Abraham. "Scripture foresaw that God would justify ..."

God promised to redeem **all** mankind, and one day unite them under the banner of his love. God initially made this promise to Abraham, wanting to bless all the nations of the world meaning all people through the faith. This man Abraham had in creator, God. It is through Jesus that God makes this possible.

Acts says "ALL who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**I need to know His promises. I need to read the Bible for myself! This is why this series is called Essentials. It's ESSENTIAL that YOU develop a love for the Word of God.**

(1 Chronicles 17:19) O LORD. For the sake of your servant and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made known all these great promises.

I need to understand His promises.

(2 Corinthians 1:20) For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" In Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

I need to pursue His promises.

(Psalm 119:140) Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.

(Psalm 119:148) My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that i may meditate on your promises.

Look at this promise from God to deliver us!

(Exodus 6:6-7) Therefore, say to the Israelites: "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and | will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

So we get it that God has promised to deliver all who will turn to Him. But is He actually personal? Can I know God myself? YES!



### **#3 The Scriptures declare God's promises to ME.**

- We all need wisdom for each day. God's Word has it!

- Need advice on marriage? God's word has it.
- Need advice on how to respond to a difficult boss? God's Word has advice on authority and how to react.
- Need advice on how to parent? God's SPIRIT will lead you to the right VERSE that DAY.
- \*ILL> I was reading my Bible and going through Proverbs last year. It was amazing how many times that proverb was needed later in the day!
- David said in the Psalms "Your words are life to my soul..." Some of us aren't feeling the LIFE in our soul / our mind and emotions / because we're need reading the Bible every day.

## #4 The Scriptures define eternal truth.

- While we touched on this idea in Nov. we live in SUCH a bizarre world today, it warrants making this point again and making it often. Only the Bible is objectively and eternally true no matter how shifting our culture becomes in it's views on morality, right and wrong and so forth. A school in CA just allowed a man in his 50's who identifies as a teen girl to swim on the teen girls swim team AND CHANGE in their locker room. This brings danger to the girls, not to mention the mental harm they have to try to forget. Why such stupidity? Because satan will clothe a lie as "love" and

something dangerous will call it “tolerance.” Darkness and sin will BLIND you from obvious truth that keeps people safe. KNOWING the Bible will keep your head screwed on straight!

- By the way I can simply point out the depravity America is in WITHOUT THE BIBLE being our baseline, I could list offense after offense and stupid decision one after another by coaches, congressmen, school boards and athletic Directors but the truth is the Bible points out MY sin - MY mistakes and MY errors that keep me from knowing truth that sets me free. So don't get it twisted. The Bible doesn't just set THEM free, it sets ME free and shows me the pitfalls and dangers of my OWN heart.
- **Whether or not I walk and live in truth is solely up to me. I can not blame another person for my rebellion against God's Word.**
- The Bible says that Jesus came in truth and love, and that he is the epitome of truth. We all are searching for truth, and all of us go who times in our lives and we question what is true what has been sold to me as a bill of goods Only to capture my attention or my money, but in a world full of sales promotions, click ads click bait and screen for attention millions of podcast, trying to convince us of their point of view there is only one book that is absolutely 100% true
- **God saves the world through Jesus. According to the promise given to Abraham, God allows US to live in the joy of**



**that promise that He was making a people, a family for Himself!**

- No, I know when you read that on the screen you might think OK Pastor Jordan you've already made that clear before but you need to understand that the more you read the Bible and the more you pray, and the more you let the spirit of God for me, so in your body, the more true, you realize that statement is And what I mean by more true well, it's hard to describe, but imagine if you will, you're looking at a giant red wall that's 300' x 300' and the more you stare at it the longer you stare at the deeper red you realize it is in the more you back up you realize it's actually 3000' by 3000 feet that's what it's like when you think about Jesus worship Jesus meditate on Jesus being the son of God who saves the world. The more you will focus your heart attention on Jesus, the more you will be satisfied and full of joy, as your heart is becoming aware, increasingly aware of truth, real truth, transforming truth, the truth, that is not a thing or a concept, but a person, truth is a person in his name is Jesus. Peace is a person and his name is Jesus. Love is a person and his name is Jesus. **The Bible is important because it reveals who Jesus is!**
- I wanna go back to the Old Testament. We talked a lot today about God, promising to bless Abraham and everyone that would follow suit and putting their trust in God and that from Abrahams to descendants we would all find salvation and hope for our souls. But I want to take you to a profit named Isaiah . And Isaiah 40 through 55 the profit is stirring up a promise of deliverance for people who have been settled in bed Babylon For two generations. Do you realize how ingrained you are in a culture if your parents and their parents and all of their cousins and all of your cousins are living in that culture eating its food speaking its

language. The point I want to drive home right now is that there was no point in God, having promised to return from exile if nobody actually got up and returned to Jerusalem, the people had to respond they had to put their faith to work they had to stand up And return to Jerusalem without that faith and action on the part of the people of Israel God's promise would've gotten nowhere. This is a pattern that we see throughout the Bible the promise to Abraham was effective because he believed it and then acted his trust was revealed in his steps, in the same way that Moses and all of those Israelites left Egypt, they had to believe the promise that God was delivering them, and the same is true for you God has given you his very son to die in your place to illustrate the power of his amazing mercy and his amazing grace, but you have to respond. I have given you the truth pastors like me are preaching the truth all over the world today right now in this very second

And some will not respond shake their head in disbelief or lower their head and shame, refusing to believe that God truly lost in that much and wants to forgive them of all of their sin all of their mistakes and give them a new name. **You have to respond.** You have to take action leave your old way of life and take hold of the new life that God has promised you!

## // ALTAR

- What part of this promise in God's Word do you need to hold on to today?
- What will you do to make Reading the Word of God a daily priority?
  - Same Place
  - Same Time

- Phone Off
- Do you need to give your life to Jesus today and RECEIVE the promise?

# Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Title: ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE

02.04.24

Bottom Line: According to the promise in God's Word, we can have life!

## Summary of Main Points

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(salvation for ALL)
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(God contextualizes / He's personal and caring and will speak SO specifically to YOU)
- **The Scriptures define eternal truth** (truth is NOT subjective to cultural norms or my emotions)

## // Discussion Questions

1. Question 1 When was a time when you read a scripture and it was EXACTLY what you needed to hear from Father God?
2. Question 2 What is the best time of the day for you to read the Bible?
3. Question 3 What are some great tools for Bible Reading?  
(BIBLE app, reading plans, etc)
4. Question 4 What was something from the sermon that stood out to you?