

The Lord Always Keeps His Promises

1) His Promise of a Son 2) His Promise of a City

Making and Breaking Promises

- LAKP – in shrp cntrst pretty much evone else. Proms: easy make/break; see it all time. Brkn: wed vows, conf vows, poltcl proms. Don't know re you: ev day in mail get poltcl ads; see yard signs up all over place; comrcls on TV; random text msgs endrng canddts who make proms know cannot keep. All kinds prdcts we buy (cars, applncs, food) all come w/wrnts, grnts, proms/satsfctn; but they let us down. We make proms to spouse, kids, frnds – smtms keep/don't. And I bet you know what feels like have smone make you a prom, only to break it. What good is a prom if it can't be kept; what good is prsn's word if it can't be trusted?
- What re Lord? Can trust his wrd? Or he going let us down like evone else? Today Lord makes set of proms to Abram: he proms a Son, descndnt, who bless whole wrld; and proms a city, home in hvn. And these proms: not only for Abram, also all us. But diff btw proms of Lord and proms ppl arnd us make/break ev day: Lord will nvr let us down; he stands behind his proms; keeps his word; does what says; does not disappoint. LAKP. Abram trusted that; today Lord teaches us to do the same.

His Promise of a Son

- **Gen 15:1.** Lord spoke dirctly to Abram, whose name: “exalted fr.” Ironcly: wasn't fr. He & Sarai: elderly couple w/no chldrn. But back in ch. 12, Lord promsd: **“I will make you into a great ntn and I will bless you” (2).** And in ch 17, when Lord chngs his name to Abraham, “fr/many,” again proms: **“I will make you very fruitful; I will make ntns of you, and kngs will come fr you” (6).** So God is making proms L/R that Abram'd become fr. But Abram's afraid not going hap; **vs. 2-3.** Started to doubt the prom.
- But don't judge him too quickly, bec we all do same. In wrd God makes proms to us L/R; we often doubt what says. It's in our sinful nature to do so. Our logical minds don't want blndly follow smthng can't see w/o proof or tangbl evidnc. God proms: loves, cares, always w/, hears prayers, nthng can sep us fr love; been pleasd give us kngdm thru Son JC, & will provide for all needs acc his wsdm. That's easy bel when thngs in life going well. But when our life takes turn dwn villy shdw/dth, and we face hrdshp, trbl comes our way, that's when begin wonder whthr Lord telling truth or feeding us empty proms. That's doubt. Abram began doubt. Felt like at his age, notion of becoming fr: empty prom.
- So Lord came Abram again: **vs. 4.** Repeats prom. Then, to help Abram undrstnd that LAKP, takes him out on starry nght: **vs. 5.** Ever tried actly count stars? You shld: go out some nght, watch Perseid Metr Shwr (peak in re 2 wks), ponder vastness hvnly bodies? You can't count stars! So here Lord to Abram: “I prom: not only son, but Son=Mes; will be blessing evone who'll ever live. So many ppl'll bel in this Son/yours, this Son/God, that you'd never count.” Bold prom. But can it be trusted?
- Trust/faith defined in 2nd: **Heb 11:1.** Abram nvr: saw J; met this Son God promsd; knew name, heard teach, saw mrcls; saw on cross, heard cry “Finshd;” saw empty tomb, put finger in nail holes. And yet Abram had confdnc in what hoped for, assrnc re what couldn't see. Placed faith in this promsd Son – his dscndnt & his Sav. Sarah did too. **Heb 11:11-12.** They belvd prom.
- And so do we. We've never seen J, heard speak, seen mrcls; weren't there on Calvary see J crcfd, or there in garden see J raised. But we know: LAKP. **“When time'd fully come, God sent Son, born of woman, born undr law, to redeem those undr law” (Gal 4:4-5).** Kept his wrd, sent us J. Abram looked forwrd in time; we, back; but our faith is essntly same: we bel God's prom of Sav, Son.
- **Vs. 6.** That's just how God operates. In order to make us rghts in sight, he does all work: makes prom, keeps prom, works faith in our hrts thru HS to bel prom, even forgvs when doubt prom. And when he looks, sees that faith, declares us rghts. Nothing we've done. That's what means be saved by grace, thru faith, not by works. God's prom is his grace. And faith bels that LAKP.

His Promise of a City

- Not only God prom Abram Son; also city. 2nd: **Heb 11:10**. Isn't earthly city; hvn itself, city where bels go immdly after die to live w/J forever. Goal/Xianity, our dstntn, home, the place where God dwells among ppl, & wipes away tears; where no death, mourning, crying, pain.
- It's a place we've nvr been. Can't travel there in spaceship, find on map, or even scientfclly prove it exists. But we bel in hvn bec Lord has promsd. And LAKP. Abram had nvr been to hvn, but looked frwr that city. We've nvr been hvn, but look frwr that city. Dear frnd, bro/Xp, Dean Fleming had nvr been hvn, but looked frwr that city. And as faithful Pr, Dean prchd prom, pointd ppl to that city. This past Tues, Lord brought his servant DF home to that city, as promsd, bec LAKP.
- And by faith we also bel that smday Lord will bring us to that city, bec that's what he's promsd. J: **"Bec I live, you also live" (Jn 14:19). "In my Fr's house...where I am" (Jn 14:2-3). "Your Fr's been pleased give you the kngdm... a treasure in hvn that'll nvr fail" (Lk 12:32-33)**. Abraham & Sarah belvd that; DF; the Xians that've gone before us belvd that; and by grace you/I bel it too. **Heb 11:13. I'm but a stranger here; heaven is my home. Heb 11:14, 16b. Oh, sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect! Jesus, in mercy bring us to that dear land of rest. Heb 11:16c. And I shall surely stand there at my Lord's right hand. Heaven is my fatherland; heaven is my home.** We bel in the promsd city bec...

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- LAKP. You can't say that re anyone else. Ppl make/break proms all time; so do we. Poltcns, frnds, manufactrrs – ppl let us down. But today Lord makes Abram, & all us, a set of proms that are absltly reliable: a Son, JC our Sav; and a city, our hvnly home. Lord kept his prom to send us J; and smday he'll keep his prom to bring us to himself forever. So put your faith in Lord and bel what he says; trust these & all his proms, bec God is a prom-keeper; nvr goes back on his wrd; LAKP.

Hebrews 11:1, 10-16

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

¹⁰ For he [Abraham] was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised [i.e., in their lifetime]; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Genesis 15:1-6

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

² But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.