

Y2K SURVIVAL

Temporal good may become spiritual evil. The health of the body can result in debilitation of the soul. The gain of Earth can result in the loss of Heaven. The gratification of the present is the jeopardy of eternity.

Therefore, it is consistent with the promises of God to bless us with earthly blessings to have, as the spirit of any promise given, the aspiration in the promise to ...

Matthew 6:33, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

The good things are only added unto us as we seek and put Him first.

If we indulge in the wish for temporal good at the hazard of coming short of His honor and glory, then we are not fit to plead any promise. Temporal mercies, if granted, would only end in our undoing.

While there is a promise prepared for any need or emergency that may arise, we can only expect God to undertake for us as we claim a specific promise, as we acknowledge Him in all our ways.

Proverbs 3:6, *In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*

While it is true that our daily course from first to last, is skirted with fair borders of promises that are green and blossoming when all around is bare, we must beware of a light and unwarranted estimate of the condition of receiving these promises. There is no room for presumption. Grace must be ours to pass the time of our sojourning here in fear, fear not of any promise failing of performance, but of our sinful nature. There is only one thing we are told to fear in Scripture.

Hebrews 4:1, *Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

The only thing that we should fear is not Y2K, but fear to claim the promises of God when there is a crisis.

Psalms 55:22, *Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*

Then let it never be forgotten that, we may, and can, enjoy the richness of the promises only when our souls are quick with a healthy spiritual life of which God, is the sole source. To comprehend and appreciate the Divine promises, there must be an unbroken communion with Him who gave them. It must be noted that in the church age, the right to appropriate the promises is usually coupled with the name of Jesus Christ.

John 15:16, *Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My Name, He may give it you.*

"Whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My Name, He may give it you." Does not this imply that only believers in Him are recognized as having any interest in the promises, which can only be inherited and obtained "through faith"? All these promises are ...

2 Corinthians 1:20, *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

"Of God in Him." *That is the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Father committed to the Son the bounties of His Grace to give to men, and they can only receive them as they come to Him. All from God is in the Lord Jesus Christ. On God's part, they were all given in His Name, and it is only through faith in that Name that we can claim particular interest in the promises and in Christ as being the pledge of their fulfillment.

Coming to Him with any particular promise in mind, we have no need to ask for any security of the verification of any Word of His. Claiming the promise in the divinely appointed way, we have the sweet assurance that God will be as good as His Word and undertake accordingly. There are multitudes of promises. Someone has computed that there are ...

"Eighty five for every day of the year. Which cover all our needs. Whether for body, home, mind and soul, for the whole of life both here and hereafter."

These wonderful promises fit our varied needs as the key fits the lock, and we can never find ourselves in any situation without an appropriate promise. Our petition for temporal, physical, and spiritual blessings should be as detailed and specific, as was the experience of the saints of old.

Genesis 24:12–14, And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

Genesis 32:11, Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.

1 Samuel 1:11, And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

Matthew 21:22, And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Philippians 4:6, Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:19, But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

There are those general promises that blanket all that we may require. Daily God loads us with His benefits.

Psalm 103:2, Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

Psalm 68:19, Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

Psalm 116:1, I love the LORD, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications.

Psalm 116:12, What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?

Psalm 65:8–13, They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: Thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: Thou preparest them corn, when Thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: Thou settlest the furrows thereof: Thou makest it soft with showers: Thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with Thy

goodness; and Thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

"Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness, and Thy paths drop fatness."

As long as we have empty vessels to produce, the Divine oil flows in to fill them. God never stops fulfilling His promises, as long as we keep pleading them by faith to cover our needs.

2 Kings 4:1-7, Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

"Like the cruse of oil unfailing is His Grace forevermore.
And His love unchanging still,
and according to His promise with the Holy Spirit and power
He will every vessel fill."

Centuries have elapsed since God gave Noah the promise that ...

Genesis 8:22, While the Earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

He who created the universe guides and governs all things both according to His will and pleasure, and for the benefit of His creatures. Here is a proof of His "faithfulness." He remembers His promise and gives us "*all things richly to enjoy.*"

1 Timothy 6:17, Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

The unfailing fulfillment of His promise also offers a proof of his infinite power. Men may seek to alter many aspects of God's creation, but with all His genius and science, He cannot cloth a field with golden corn. Then the promise to Noah is an evidence of His goodness, in spite of the accumulated sin of the human race, He continues to shower down His manifold blessings.

Acts 14:17, Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from Heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Man requires sustenance. And in the succession of seasons, human needs are met.

Psalms 23:1, The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

The Shepherd Psalm as a whole reveals the Shepherd's ability to care for us in every way. If we are His sheep and His private mark is upon us, then we know that because of His kind, tender, and liberal soul, all our fears of support are follies, our forebodings are sinful, and our anxieties groundless, for He is able to supply all our need.

Philippians 4:19, *But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Psalms 34:10, *The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.*

There is another comfortable promise to cheer our souls, and to strengthen our assurance. In us, we know. *"there dwelleth no good thing,"* but how many "good things" God heaps upon us. We can rest assured that He will withhold nothing profitable from any of His children.

Matthew 7:11, *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask Him?*

2 Corinthians 3:5, *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.*

1 Chronicles 29:14, *But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.*

"For all things come of Thee. And of Thine own have we given Thee."

Romans 8:32, *He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

Psalms 84:11, *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give Grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

God is the source of every good gift and every perfect gift.

James 1:17, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

Temporal mercies and spiritual blessings are from Him. "All good things around us come from Heaven above." **Every crumb is from Him.**

Genesis 22:14, *And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-Jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*

"Jehovah-Jireh" means the Lord sees and provides.

Under the title of Jehovah, we consider various aspects of God's beautiful provision. And as we deal with all our temporal necessities we can turn again to our Jehovah-Jireh and find in such a designation the guarantee of material supplies.

He cares for all that concerns our life here below. If we trust Him we will get enough for comfort if not enough for luxury. Enough to rid from us unworthy solicitude if not enough to free us from wholesome dependence and continuous faith. Every modest and present want He is able to satisfy.

Joshua 17:14, *And the children of Joseph spake unto Joshua, saying, Why hast thou given me but one lot and one portion to inherit, seeing I am a great people, forasmuch as the LORD hath blessed me hitherto?*

1 Samuel 7:12, *Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.*

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped me."

Each of us can raise our stone of Eben-ezer, and be confident that all that the Lord has been, and is, He will be.

Looking back over the past, we remember all the marvelous things He accomplished for us. How graciously He sustained us in time of need, and changed our burdens into wings. He promises to bless, and we found Him faithful. Not one promise of His failed. And never will.

Joshua 21:45, There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

1 Corinthians 10:13, There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Numbers 23:19, God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?

Our wants should remind us of God's promises, and the promises should be used to quell our fears and comfort our souls. We may not know the needs of the future, but He does. So let us banish all care and rest and rejoice in Him who has promised to be our Provider.

1 Peter 5:7, Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.

1 Samuel 12:24, Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you.

Too often we dwell upon the miseries of the past, and forget our mercies. But as He supplied us through all our yesterdays, and satisfied us with His goodness, He will not withhold any good thing from us in the days to come.

He gave us faith to trust Him and promises to plead with Him, and proofs of His own care and provision without number. Should these not encourage us to face the days ahead with confidence?

Psalms 115:13, He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.

How full of cheer is this promise for those of humble estate and whose fare is fragile. God cares for the small things in His creation, even for the sparrows. No one is too small for Him to bless. If poor, unnoticed and unknown, you loom large in His eyes and have the promise of the best.

Psalms 84:11, For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give Grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Romans 8:32, He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Psalms 113:7, He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill;

Psalms 68:5, A Father of the fatherless, and a Judge of the widows, is God in His holy habitation.

1 Samuel 2:8, He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the Earth are the LORD's, and He hath set the world upon them.

What royal promises these are, if not in form, then in fact.

Romans 8:32 and Psalm 84:11 suggest a conglomerate of promises. His love, like a spring, rises of itself and overflows for the supply of all our needs, all of which are so freely bestowed. Had there been any limit in His giving, He would have kept back His own Son.

Romans 8:32, He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Deuteronomy 33:13, And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of Heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

While we delight in the spiritual significance of the promises, we must not lose sight of their coverage of all that concerns our complex life. As the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, God is able to meet all our needs, whether material or spiritual.

How abundant and varied are His precious things. **Now passing from the general principles of God's providential provision, we next come in our study to a few of the specific promises related to material things.**

To live we must eat and drink, so we will start with food. Which seems to be a big problem when we come to the subject of Y2K.

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