

Promises, Promises

Standing on the Glory and Power of God's Promises



The Promises We Make Formal and Informal



I promise to not criticize you;
not lie to you; treat you with respect

I promise to pay it back;
not steal; not harm

I promise to stay in my lane; not cut in line

Living by The Law



Functionally we all live by The Law,
With each other, ourselves and God.

Do this and Get that

Sprinkled with occasional grace
(especially for me)

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1

Now the LORD said to Abram, “***Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house*** to the land that I will show you.”

Country, Kindred and Castle

Leaving behind my *Kingdom*
Where did / do I try to find my

Hope

Identity

Value

Security

I need __ to be complete.

My reputation....

My satisfaction....

My happiness....

My plan....

We can't be "reborn"
until we first die.

This is a calling, an invitation,
to an utter inversion,
of ourselves and our Kingdom.

"If I am a field that contains nothing but
grass-seed, I cannot produce wheat.
Cutting the grass may keep it short: but I
shall still produce grass and no wheat. If
I want to produce wheat, the change
must go deeper than the surface. I must
be ploughed up and resown"
- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Genesis 12:1

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house **to the land** that I will show you."

Good News!

The Promises of God
The God of Promises

^{12:2} And I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you and make your name great...

Great Nation

We matter far beyond ourselves...our very lives impact the world.

Great Blessing

We are adored and cherished;
He overwhelms us with gifts and love.

Great Name

We matter. Our identities get solidified, not marginalized as we are adopted into His Great Name.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

The very things we so desperately were seeking in our old kingdom,
...and even better...
are given freely and with outrageous abundance

The God of Promises

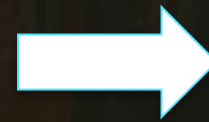
Genesis 15:7 And (God) said to (Abraham), “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”⁸ But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. ...¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.



God: I’m the one that brought you “from”



Abraham: but how can I trust you?



God: “If I break my promises, may I die.
If YOU break your promises, may I die.”

Jeremiah 31

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my **covenant** that they **broke**, though I was their **husband**, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and **I will write it on their hearts**. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. **For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**”

Laws in stone that we
couldn't satisfy

vs.

Laws written on flesh
fulfilled in Christ

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our
transgressions; he was
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the
chastisement that brought
us peace, and with his
wounds we are healed.

12:2b so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

God wants to overwhelm us with love so that we will overwhelm others with it.

Because of God's unbreakable promises to us,
We at Grace Brevard Resolve to....

Enjoy the
Beauty of
God

Grow in
the Love
of Jesus

Share in
the
Creativity
around us

Connect in
our Love
for each
other

Serve our
global and
local
community

To Know and Enjoy the Glory of Jesus Better

“If our minds are not being daily renewed by the truths of the gospel, we will not be able to discern and walk in the will of God” - **Jeff Vanderstelt**

This shockingly and profoundly changes what and how we do promises...from the self-centered to the “impossible” God- and other- centered.