

Luke 1:39-45 "The power of His promise"

I wish to open up with a quote about God's promises. Charles Spurgeon says, "The best praying man is the man who is most believably familiar with the promises of God. After all, prayer is nothing but taking God's promises to him, and saying to him, "Do as thou hast said." Prayer is the promise utilized. A prayer which is not based on a promise has no true foundation."

We now focus on the greatest promise of all! The coming of the Messiah!

- I. The power of God's promise through Time
 - a. We have talked about the 400 silent years already. But that is only the time between the New and Old Testaments. What about the promises given before this?
 - i. There are several passages from the Old Testament which really speaks to the coming of the Messiah
 - ii. We are only going to look at one example from each time frame
 1. Micah 5:2¹ – Given more than 500 years before Jesus
 2. Psalm 72:10-11 – Given more than 800 years before Jesus
 3. Genesis 18:17-18 – Given more than 1200 years before Jesus
 - b. The Jewish people knew of the coming of the Messiah.
 - i. They longed for it
 - ii. They desired most when they were under Roman rule
 - c. How long did some of the hearers wait?
 - i. Some never saw the fulfillment of the promise
 - ii. Some, like us, were and are still waiting for this kingdom to come – Revelation 20:4-6
- II. The power of God's promise through birth
 - a. John the Baptist was a promise
 - i. The Old Testament – Malachi 3:1²; 4:5-6; Isaiah 40:3
 - ii. Second, Jesus Himself, quoting the Old Testament testifies of this – Mark 9:11-13; Matthew 11:14-15
 - iii. He was the one whom Israel was to look for as the fore-runner. He was a marker of who was to come!
 - b. Jesus Himself is the ultimate promise
 - i. Jesus was the one whom was bringing the entirety of the covenants together. When He came...He came offering them the KINGDOM!
 - ii. However, the Jewish people rejected Him!

¹ Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting."

² Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

1. They wanted the Kingdom but they didn't want the requirements of the Kingdom
 2. They wanted the Kingdom without conforming to the King
 3. George Peters said it best when he said, "Such a Theocratic Kingdom under the Messiah, with the accompanying elevation of the Jewish nation – *as covenanted and predicted*- cannot possibly be established without a suitable moral preparation. An exaltation to such supremacy and honor, unless previously prepared for it, would only have excited the pride, the selfishness, the arrogance, and ambition of the Jewish nation.
- III. The power of God's promise over problems
- a. To mankind, His promises seem to pin Him in a corner
 - i. The problem of a rejecting people
 1. The Jewish people are set aside! How are the covenants fulfilled?
 2. A grafted people who are in the lineage of Abraham but were not born as such!
 - a. We see God will call those who are not from His sheep – Hosea 2:23³
 - b. Paul, a Jew, recognizes this – Romans 9:23-24
 - c. This can be repeated time and again – Romans 4:11; Romans 4:16; Romans 10:19; Romans 11:11; Galatians 3:29; Ephesians 2:11-12; 1 Peter 2:10 and many others.
 - ii. The problem of Jesus' Lineage
 1. Could not be from the line of Joseph because of a curse – Jeremiah 22:24-30
 - a. Must be from the line of David however!
 - b. Must have ties to Israel and the covenants of Abraham, Noah and David.
 2. How is this overcome?
 - a. Enter Mary! – She is from the line of David – Luke 3:23-38 (Her line)
 - b. She was not of the line of Joseph with the curse
 - c. The sin curse is passed from the father. Being born of a virgin removes the sin curse keeping Jesus perfect (Virgin Birth is NECESSARY)
 - d. Be careful of some translations that translate Isaiah 7:14 as a young woman. There is some linguistics here but just a cautionary statement.
- IV. The power of God's promise for our future
- a. We can trust God's promises on a grand scale

³ Hosea 2:23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on *her who had* not obtained mercy; Then I will say to *those who were* not My people, 'You *are* My people!' And they shall say, 'You *are* my God!' "

- i. God has an impressive history of fulfilling His promises
- ii. We may not see the promises fulfilled yet or even in our life but based on His past fulfillment, we can rest assured in the future fulfillment as well.
 - 1. We may hope for things that is not yet seen – Romans 8:24⁴
 - 2. It is faith that is the very essence of hope – Hebrews 11:1
- b. We can trust God's promises to us specifically
 - i. Throughout the Scriptures, this same God who promises these mighty things has also given us great promises!
 - ii. He can fulfill those promises just as powerfully as He did the grand ones
 - iii. What are those promises? I will leave that for you to dig into His Word and see
 - 1. When you find a promise of God, hang on to it
 - 2. Know, it WILL be fulfilled.

⁴ Romans 8:24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?