

The Promises of God

God's Nature as the Promise-Maker

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a human being, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not make it happen?
(Numbers 23:19)

<http://tinyurl.com/GodOfPromises>

Core Theme

God's promises are trustworthy because they flow from His character. He reveals Himself as faithful, true, and unchanging - and He has invited us to know Him through His Word, His works in history, and most fully through Jesus Christ.

God's Character in Scripture

The Nature of God – Foundations for His Promises

Unchanging Faithfulness

- **Malachi 3:6** *Since, I, the LORD, do not go back on my promises, you, sons of Jacob, have not perished.*
- **Hebrews 13:8** *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever!*

Truthfulness

- **Titus 1:1-2** *From Paul [...] to further the faith of God's chosen ones and the knowledge of the truth that is in keeping with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before time began.*
- **John 17:16-19** *They do not belong to the world just as I do not belong to the world. Set them apart in the truth; your word is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I set myself apart on their behalf, so that they too may be truly set apart.*

Faithfulness

- **Deuteronomy 7:9** *So realize that the LORD your God is the true God, the faithful God who keeps covenant faithfully with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations...*
- **Lam 3:22-24** *The LORD's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning; your faithfulness is abundant!*

God's Character in Scripture

God is unchanging, truthful, and faithful.

Unchanging Faithfulness

Numbers 23:19 — God is not like man who lies or changes.

Malachi 3:6 — "For I the LORD do not change."

Hebrews 13:8 — "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Truthfulness

Titus 1:2 — God cannot lie.

John 17:17 — God's Word is truth.

Faithfulness

Deuteronomy 7:9 — "The LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love."

Lamentations 3:22-23 — "Great is Your faithfulness."

Teaching Point: From Genesis to Revelation, God consistently reveals Himself as faithful and true. His promises are inseparable from His character.

Deu 7:6-12 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. He has chosen you to be his people, prized above all others on the face of the earth. (7) It is not because you were more numerous than all the other peoples that the LORD favored and chose you – for in fact you were the least numerous of all peoples. (8) Rather it is because of his love for you and his faithfulness to the promise he solemnly vowed to your ancestors that the LORD brought you out with great power, redeeming you from the place of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (9) So realize that the LORD your God is the true God, the faithful God who keeps covenant faithfully with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, (10) but who pays back those who hate him as they deserve and destroys them. He will not ignore those who hate him but will repay them as they deserve! (11) So keep the commandments, statutes, and ordinances that I today am commanding you to do. (12) If you obey these ordinances and are careful to do them, the LORD your God will faithfully keep covenant with you as he promised your ancestors.

Lam 3:22-24 The LORD's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning; your faithfulness is abundant! "My portion is the LORD," I have said to myself, so I will put my hope in him.

Why is God's character the ultimate guarantee that His promises will not fail?

God's Character in History

The Nature of God – Foundations for His Promises

Creation

- God's word brought all things into existence (Genesis 1). What He says happens.

Patriarchs

- God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob despite human weakness.

Israel's Deliverance

- In Exodus, God proved His power and faithfulness by redeeming Israel from Egypt and fulfilling His word to Abraham (Genesis 15:13–14).

Exile and Return

- Even in judgment, God promised restoration (Jeremiah 29:10–14), and He did bring His people back.

Church Age

- Jesus' promise to build His church (Matthew 16:18) has held true through centuries of history; persecution, revival, and global expansion.

God's Character in History

Teaching Point: History is the unfolding testimony of God keeping His word, often against impossible odds.

From Creation (Genesis 1) to the Patriarchs (Genesis 12–15), to Exodus deliverance (Exodus 14), to Exile and Return (Jeremiah 29:10–14), God consistently proves His Word true.

Creation: God's word brought all things into existence (Genesis 1). What He says happens.

Patriarchs: God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob despite human weakness.

Israel's Deliverance: In Exodus, God proved His power and faithfulness by redeeming Israel from Egypt and fulfilling His word to Abraham (Genesis 15:13–14).

Gen 15:13-14 Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign country. They will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. (14) But I will execute judgment on the nation that they will serve. Afterward they will come out with many possessions.

Exile and Return: Even in judgment, God promised restoration (Jeremiah 29:10–14), and He did bring His people back.

Church Age: Jesus' promise to build His church (Matthew 16:18) has held true through centuries of history — persecution, revival, and global expansion.

Mat 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

How has God demonstrated His character in biblical history, and how does this build our confidence today?

God's Character Revealed in Jesus

The Nature of God – Foundations for His Promises

Truth and Grace Incarnate

- **John 1:14** *The Word became flesh... full of grace and truth.*
- **John 14:9** *"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."*

Faithful to the End

- **Philippians 2:8** Jesus was obedient unto death.
- **2 Corinthians 1:20** In Jesus, every promise of God finds its "Yes."

Unchanging Compassion

- Jesus consistently revealed God's mercy; healing the sick, forgiving sinners, lifting the broken.
- **Hebrews 4:15** He is a faithful high priest, able to sympathize with our weakness.

God's Character Revealed in Jesus

Teaching Point: Jesus is the perfect revelation of God's character; faithful, true, compassionate, just, and merciful.

Truth and Grace Incarnate:

Joh 1:14 Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory – the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father.

John 14:9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you for so long, and you have not known me, Philip? The person who has seen me has seen the Father! How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Faithful to the End:

Php 2:8 He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross!

2Co 1:20 For every one of God's promises are "Yes" in him; therefore also through him the "Amen" is spoken, to the glory we give to God.

Unchanging Compassion:

Jesus consistently revealed God's mercy; healing the sick, forgiving sinners, lifting the broken.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin.

In what ways does Jesus uniquely reveal the character of God?

God's Invitation to Know Him

The Nature of God – Foundations for His Promises

Through His Word

- **Psalm 19:7-9** God's Word reveals His nature and ways.

Through His Works

- **Psalm 105:1-5** Remember His mighty deeds as witness to His faithfulness.

Through His Son

- **Hebrews 1:1-3** God has spoken most clearly in His Son.

Through Covenant Relationship

- **Jeremiah 9:23-24** Let the one who boasts boast in this: that he knows Me.
- **Jeremiah 31:34** For all of them will know Me.
- **John 17:3** Eternal life is knowing the Father and the Son.
- **Romans 6:4-11** You too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

God's Invitation to Know Him (i.e. His Character)

Teaching Point: God does not hide His character; He calls us to see, trust, and know Him personally.

Through His Word:

Psalm 19:7-9 The law of the LORD is perfect and preserves one's life. The rules set down by the LORD are reliable and impart wisdom to the inexperienced. (8) The LORD's precepts are fair and make one joyful. The LORD's commands are pure and give insight for life. (9) The commands to fear the LORD are right and endure forever. The judgments given by the LORD are trustworthy and absolutely just.

Through His Works:

Psalm 105:1-5 Give thanks to the LORD! Call on his name! Make known his accomplishments among the nations! (2) Sing to him! Make music to him! Tell about all his miraculous deeds! (3) Boast about his holy name! Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! (4) Seek the LORD and the strength he gives! Seek his presence continually! (5) Recall the miraculous deeds he performed, his mighty acts and the judgments he decreed,

Through His Son:

Hebrews 1:1-3 After God spoke long ago in various portions and in various ways to our ancestors through the prophets, (2) in these last days he has spoken to us in a son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he created the world. (3) The Son is the radiance of his glory and the representation of his essence, and he sustains all things by his powerful word, and so when he had accomplished cleansing for sins, *he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Through Covenant Relationship:

Jeremiah 9:23-24 The LORD says, "Wise people should not boast that they are wise. Powerful people should not boast that they are powerful. Rich people should not boast that they are rich. (24) If people want to boast, they should boast about this: They should boast that they understand and know me. They should boast that they know and understand that I, the LORD, act out of faithfulness, fairness, and justice in the earth and that I desire people to do these things," says the LORD.

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life – that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.

Jeremiah 31:34 "People will no longer need to teach their neighbors and relatives to know me. For all of them, from the least important to the most important, will know me," says the LORD. "For I will forgive their sin and will no longer call to mind the wrong they have done."

Romans 6:4-11 Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life. (5) For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united in the likeness of his resurrection. (6) We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (7) (For someone who has died has been freed from sin.) (8) Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (9) We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he is never going to die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (10) For the death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. (11) So you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

How has God invited you personally to know Him and trust His promises?

The Law of Non-Contradiction (1)

A Foundational Law of Logic

A thing cannot be both A and not-A in the same sense and at the same time.

In simple terms: a statement and its direct negation cannot both be true simultaneously. For example, “God is faithful” and “God is not faithful” cannot both be true about the same God at the same time and in the same way.

Theological Foundation

The Law of Non-Contradiction flows from **the very nature of God**, who is truth and cannot deny Himself. Because God is truth (John 14:6), reality is consistent and coherent. Logic, reason, and the reliability of truth are grounded in His character. If God could contradict Himself, truth would collapse and promises would be meaningless.

Relationship Between God and Logic

God is not subject to logic as if logic were a power above Him; rather, logic reflects His **unchanging nature**. The consistency of logic and reason exists because God is consistent. When we reason logically, we think *after* God, reflecting His rational, truthful character (Genesis 1:26-27; Isaiah 1:17-18). Logic is not a human construct; it is a divine attribute reflected in human reasoning.

The Law of Non-Contradiction and the Nature of God

This law is not invented by humans; it is **discovered**, it reflects the way reality itself is structured.

Theological Foundation

The Law of Non-Contradiction flows from **the very nature of God**, who is truth and cannot deny Himself.

Scriptural Basis:

Numbers 23:19 — “God is not man, that He should lie.”

2 Timothy 2:13 — “He cannot deny Himself.”

Titus 1:2 — “God, who never lies...”

John 14:6 — Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

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Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth.” (27) God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.

Isa 1:17-18 Learn to do what is right! Promote justice! Give the oppressed reason to celebrate! Take up the cause of the orphan! Defend the rights of the widow! (18) Come, let’s consider your options,” says the LORD. “Though your sins have stained you like the color red, you can become white like snow; though they are as easy to see as the color scarlet, you can become white like wool.

The Law of Non-Contradiction (2)

A Foundational Law of Logic

Implications for Faith and Promises

- **Reliability:** God's promises are trustworthy because He cannot affirm and deny the same truth.
- **Faith and Reason:** Biblical faith is not "belief without reason," but **trust in a God who is rational, coherent, and faithful**.
- **Scriptural Consistency:** The unity of Scripture across centuries shows that divine revelation never contradicts itself.
- **Moral Stability:** God's commands and promises do not change with culture or emotion; they flow from His eternal, logical, truthful nature.

Application

- **Think Logically About Faith:** Study God's Word knowing that it reflects divine reason and harmony.
- **Defend Truth Confidently:** In a world of relativism, affirm that contradictions cannot both be true, truth remains anchored in God.
- **Trust Deeply:** When doubt arises, recall that God cannot contradict His promises; His Word and nature are one.
- **Live Consistently:** Seek to align beliefs, words, and actions with God's coherent truth; avoiding hypocrisy and double-mindedness (James 1:2-8).

The Law of Non-Contradiction and the Nature of God

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Summary Statement

The Law of Non-Contradiction finds its ultimate grounding in the unchanging, truthful nature of God. Because God cannot lie or act contrary to His being, reality and reason are coherent. Every divine promise rests securely upon this logical and moral consistency, making faith in God not only a spiritual act but a rational one.

Jas 1:2-8 My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, (3) because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (4) And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything. (5) But if anyone is deficient in wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without reprimand, and it will be given to him. (6) But he must ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed around by the wind. (7) For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, (8) since he is a double-minded individual, unstable in all his ways.