

May You Hear
1 Kings 8:22-30

Sept. 1, 2024

INVOCATION: Gracious and merciful God, we love You and are thankful to be in Your presence. Help us to tune out the distractions of the world around us and to focus on You. Hear our prayers and our songs this morning. May they be pleasing to You. Speak to us through the Holy Spirit today. In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

WELCOME: Be sure to welcome visitors.

HYMN # 484 Higher Ground
HYMN # 254 Holy, Holy, Holy

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

PASTORAL PRAYER:

OFFERTORY HYMN # 350 The Church's One Foundation

SERMON FOCUS: I must look for God to keep His promises.

SERMON FUNCTION: The hearer will examine if he/she is ready for God to keep His promises.

BACKGROUND: Last week, we looked at beginning of the reign of David's son, King Solomon, where he requested wisdom from God. You may remember from before, that David had wanted to build a Temple for the Lord, but God told him no. God has let Solomon build the Temple, and this passage today is a portion of the prayer that Solomon prayed at the dedication of that Temple.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Kings 8:22-30

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever had someone break a promise to you? Depending on how close you were to that person, that might have hurt a little or a lot. Maybe the person fully intended to keep the promise, but was unable. Maybe the person never intended to keep that promise. With God's promises, it is completely different. We know that He has both the intention and the ability to keep every promise He has ever made. In his prayer at the dedication of the Temple, Solomon mentions a promise of God already kept, and asks Him to keep the next one. Of course, God can be trusted to do so. Like Solomon, we know that God has kept His promises in the past, He keeps them today, and He will keep them in the future.

MESSAGE:

1. GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISES IN THE PAST

- a. God kept His promise to deliver Noah and his family from the flood.
- b. God kept His promise to Abraham that he would become a great nation.
- c. God kept His promise when Joseph was taken as a slave to Egypt.
- d. God kept His promise when He sent Moses to Egypt to bring His people out.
- e. God kept His promise when He brought His people to the promised land.
- f. God kept His promise when He called Samuel to anoint David as king.
- g. God kept His promise when David's son Solomon ascended to the throne.
- h. God kept His promise when He granted Solomon wisdom.
- i. God kept His promise when He allowed Solomon to build a Temple for Him.
- j. Solomon starts out his prayer with a reminder that God has been faithful to keep His promise. We know this to be true in spite of David's sins.
- k. Solomon could trust that God would keep His promise, because He has a history of doing so.
- l. Humans may fail in their promises, but God has never failed in keeping a promise and will not fail to do so ever!
- m. God kept a descendant of David on the throne in Jerusalem until the nation had gone so far away from God that they forfeited the right to be ruled by a descendant of David.
- n. Even after that, God still sent Jesus the Messiah to rule. Matthew goes to great trouble to write our Jesus' genealogy to prove Jesus is the One who is promised.

- o. Because of God's thousands of years of promise-keeping, we can trust that He still keeps His promises in the present.

2. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES IN THE PRESENT

- a. (Deut. 31:8, repeated in Heb. 13:5) "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- b. (Acts 1:8) "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- c. (Acts 2:38-39) "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children, and all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'"
- d. (John 15:18) "If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you."
- e. (Matt. 11:5) "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, and blessed is the one who isn't offended by me."
- f. The promises of our God are still valid in this day and age. The difference is that we are less likely to look for these promises to be kept.
- g. Because we know that God kept His promises in the past, and keeps His promises today, we should be really assured that He will keep His promise in the future.

3. GOD WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES IN THE FUTURE

- a. (Matthew 24:29-31) "Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. The sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."
- b. (Acts 1:10-11) "While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.'"
- c. (John 14:3) "If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also."
- d. We can trust our God to keep these promises as He has kept promises from the beginning of time. We also cannot expect God to keep His promises on our timetable.
- e. We know that Jesus will return. We trust this promise to be true.

4. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).

- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.

- b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
- c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
- d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

FOUR QUESTIONS:

- 1. What do you hear God saying to you?
- 2. What keeps you from doing that?
- 3. If you were to do that, what might be a good first step?
- 4. Who are you going to tell?

INVITATION HYMN # 315 Room at the Cross