

A Time to Flourish Part 3 – the power of a promise

Opening Text: **Deuteronomy 4:31-39**

Introduction:

This is probably the last time Moses is addressing the people of Israel. After 40 years in the desert, they find themselves in the plains of Moab, opposite Jericho, about to finally enter and possess the land of the promise. What God had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob centuries before, was about to come to pass. A desert-wandering people, who for 40 long years had no place to lay their heads was about to become a conquering army and a flourishing nation. That story is such a testament to the integrity of God's word and how He watches over it to preform it.

Joshua 21:45 - *Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.*

1. This was the greatest day ever, since the creation of man

In this address, Moses invites them to consider and acknowledge the magnitude of all that God had done for them:

V.32 - *For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard.*

How important it is to recognize the greatness of our God and the magnitude of His works!

What God did for them was the greatest thing ever to occur on earth, since God created it! There was no historical equivalent to this in the entire scope of human existence.

Isaiah 64:4 *For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him.*

Psalms 66:5: *Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men.*

Let's look at v.32 in the **NLT**: *“Now search all of history, from the time God created people on the earth until now, and search from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything as great as this ever been seen or heard before?”*

Now the point I want to make is this: something of such proportion, so big, so unprecedented, so unique, so powerful as this, **happened because of a promise.**

He did all of that because of a **promise** (the promise God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob). The greatest day ever since the creation of the world came about because of a **promise**.

God's promises are powerful! When we consider the promises of God for us, we need to understand that any promise spoken by God is powerful: God remembers and watches over it to perform it, like only He can!

The key to flourish in 2017 is to stand on His promise, believe His promise, pray His promise, make His promise the vision you carry when you go through tough times.

Psalms 119:162 – *“I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.”*

2. Greater promises

That was a powerful day, like no other day before. However, before you think that nothing as powerful can ever happen again, or that God would never move like that in your life, let me tell you that God has even greater things for the people that belong to Jesus.

As great as hearing a voice speaking out of the fire was, In Christ we have an even greater deal. Let us look at a few passages in the book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22

¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. [that happened in the physical Mount Sinai]

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

In Christ, we have come to a better place, a more glorious place, to someone greater than Moses: Jesus, to a heavenly Jerusalem, to the company of angels, to the church of the firstborn.

(The book of Hebrews in fact is all about the greater things we have in Jesus)

Hebrews 7:22 - *by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.*

Hebrews 8:6 - *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.*

Hebrews 11:40 - *God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

If God zealously guarded and performed promises for people under the Old Covenant, how much more His New Covenant people, who have *better* promises?

If God translated the Jewish nation led by Moses, from the dust of the desert to a land flourishing and flowing with milk and honey, how will He not fulfil His promises to people like us led by His very own Son, who have a better covenant based upon better promises?

We should be expectant of greater things in 2017 and to flourish like never before!

3. How not to miss His promise to ‘flourish’ in 2017

God watches over his word to perform it promptly. However, there are three things that can delay or keep us from receiving God’s promises:

1. Disobedience

It delayed the fulfilment of the promise by 40 years. Many failed to go in - including Moses himself.

2. Indifference

Hebrews 6:12 New Living Translation

¹² Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God’s promises because of their faith and endurance.

The promise won’t work for people who are spiritually ‘sluggish’, passive regarding the promises of God or indifferent.

If you want the promise, you need to apply diligence and go after it.

3. Unbelief

Hebrews 3:12 - *Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;*

Verse 19. *So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

Hebrews 4:2 - *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.*

Conclusion

Make it your goal this year to walk obedient, diligent and filled with faith - expecting your best days ever.

The righteous shall flourish in 2017!