

“The Promise of God”
2 Kings 14:15-29
(Preached at Trinity, June 26, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The author is continuing to take us back and forth between the history of Israel and that of Judah. Primary attention is given to the Northern Kingdom as we march towards their ultimate judgment in **Chapter 17**.
The first half of this chapter recorded the war between King Ahaziah of Judah and King Jehoash of Israel. Judah was defeated and Jerusalem was looted.
2. In **Verses 15-20** the author gives us two obituaries. **Verses 15-16** record the end of the reign of King Jehoash and his son, Jeroboam, succeeding him to the throne. This is actually the second obituary for King Jehoash, the first given in **Chapter 13**.
Verses 17-20 record the death of Ahaziah. His reign lasted 15 years longer than Jehoash. The author is describing the end of this era and the rise of the two succeeding kings, Azariah who was Uzziah and Jeroboam II.
3. We'll look at the reign of Uzziah as we enter **Chapter 15**. The final verses of this chapter describe the reign of Jeroboam II. Like the reign of the first Jeroboam over 100 years earlier, the reign of this Jeroboam was also characterized by evil.
Verse 24 provides the ultimate description of his forty-one year reign:
"He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin."
4. Once again, we have to ask the question, why did God not destroy them in His wrath? We often don't ask such questions because we dismiss the serious nature of sin. We awaken each day in comfort and presume all is well with the world.
Chapter 17 will snap us back to reality.
2 Kings 17:6-8 NAU - "In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. ⁷ Now *this* came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods ⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and *in the customs* of the kings of Israel which they had introduced."
2 Kings 17:18 NAU - "So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah."
5. So, why did God wait to destroy them? Why not during the long reign of Jeroboam? Why give him such a long reign—the longest of the kings of Israel. It even appeared he was prospering. In fact, under the reign of Jeroboam II Israel appeared to prosper both politically and economically even in the midst of their deplorable social and religious decline. Why? The answer is quite simple and can be described by a single word – promise.

6. God was working out His purpose and fulfilling His promises. God had made a promise to Jehu of a four-generation dynasty.
2 Kings 10:30 NAU - "The LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in executing what is right in My eyes, *and* have done to the house of Ahab according to all that *was* in My heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."
7. Jeroboam marks the fourth generation. God's promises are sure. Although God's promise to Jehu was temporary, God's promise to David was abiding, even today and unto eternity.
2 Samuel 7:12-13 NAU - "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."
 Even as we'll see the kingdom in exile in **Chapters 24-25** God's promise continued and we'll see it again in the New Testament.
Matthew 1:23 NAU - "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."
Revelation 11:15 NAU - "Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."
8. In addition, we find that there had been a prophecy from the mouth of Jonah of the restoration of a border of Israel.
- A. We don't have record of the prophecy, but we find here the fulfillment. God's promises are true.
2 Kings 14:25 NAU - "He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was of Gath-hepher."
- B. Behind God's promises is His compassion and mercy.
2 Kings 14:26 NAU - "For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, *which* was very bitter; for there was neither bond nor free, nor was there any helper for Israel."
- C. And we must not fail to remember God's Covenant promises to the patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God was using wicked Jeroboam to continue His covenant promises.
2 Kings 14:27 NAU - "The LORD did not say that He would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, but He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash."
9. In the Old Testament we often hear the phrase, "The Word of the LORD" – 241 times. There is an inseparable link between God's promise and His Word. We read in **Verse 25** – "according to the Word of the LORD."
- A. The Hebrew word for Word is דָּבָר (dabar) – It is also one of the Hebrew words translated "Promise."
1 Kings 8:56 – "Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant."

- B. In other words, there is a close connection between God's promises and His Word. God's Words are absolute
Isaiah 46:11 NAU - "Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it, surely* I will do it."
Isaiah 55:11 NAU - "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it."
Numbers 23:19 NAU - "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
10. Behind every Word of God we have the surety that He cannot fail. He cannot lie.
2 Corinthians 1:20 NAU - "For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us."
A. God has never gone back on a promise.
To Noah:
Genesis 9:11 NAU - "I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth."
To Abraham
Genesis 17:7 NAU - "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you."
B. God's promises are absolute. They rest upon his infallible character, His infinite power, and His absolute purpose. They are not true one moment and then false the next. They do not speak one thing today and then another tomorrow. They are always yes, true, infallible
11. Tonight I want us to consider God's promises under two headings.
First, God's promise by way of His Covenant
Second, God's promise and our assurance.
- I. God's promise by way of His covenant
A. Everything in the Christian life comes by way of God's covenant promise
1. This is the nature of God's dealings with fallen man
LBC Chapter 7: Of God's Covenant -
"The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their creator, yet they could never have attained the reward of life but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant."
2. God's Covenant find's its foundation in His eternal counsel between the Godhead, when nothing existed but God. It is a covenant bathed in God's everlasting love, a covenant that sets forth the surety of our everlasting life in Christ who has secured it in His own blood.
- B. God's eternal covenant reveals that God did not abandon fallen humanity but put His mercy on display. This covenant has been further revealed in His earthly covenants
1. Each covenant progressively reveals God's eternal purpose

2. God's covenant is finally fully revealed and fulfilled through Christ—each covenant moving from shadow to reality.
Galatians 3:16 NAU - "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ."
 3. All who are united to Jesus share in these promises
Galatians 3:29 NAU - "And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."
Galatians 3:16 NAU - "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed."
- C. God's covenant promises are absolute and unfailing
2 Corinthians 1:20 NAU - "For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us."
Acts 13:32-33 NAU - "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, ³³ that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.'"
1. In a world of chaos and uncertainty our hope is fixed upon a King whose Kingdom is certain. The purpose of God will never fail.
Isaiah 9:6-7 KJV - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."
 2. What an infinite blessing that God would show such mercy to fallen sinful humanity.

II. The promise and our assurance

- A. Upon what do you rest your eternal hope?
1. Most people hold to a carnal hope, an uncertain hope of presumptuous feelings. It is the hope that says, "I think I'm saved thus I must be saved."
 2. What is the Biblical basis for our assurance?
 3. Christian assurance is founded upon three grounds:
 - a. The testimony of the Holy Spirit within our hearts
Romans 8:15-16 NAU - "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,"
 - b. Objective Biblical evidence of the grace of regeneration
1 John 2:5 NAU - "whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:"

1 John 3:7 NAU - "Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;"

Matthew 7:16-20 NAU - "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ "So then, you will know them by their fruits."

- c. The third ground of our assurance is surety of God's promises as we are granted the faith to rest upon them.

Conclusion:

1. As Christians, we are the heirs of God's promises.
Galatians 3:29 NAU - " And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."
2. In other words, God's covenant promises are ours.
The fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham is Christ
Galatians 3:16 NAU - "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ."
3. The promises to Abraham are shared by his posterity.
Galatians 3:7 NAU - "Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham."