

## EXCEEDING GREAT PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD

2Pet.1:1-4

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### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Peter writes in 2Pet.1:2-4a: “Exceeding and precious promises” of God are given to us, “according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”
2. He also writes in 2Pet.1:4b: “That by these we might partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
3. He thus speaks of the saved “through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ,” of their having put off the old man and having put on the new man in Christ, and of their being the recipients of the greatest and most precious promises as a result of their conversion to Christ, 2Pet.1:1,4b.
4. Peter says those “that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ”
  - a. Are “partakers of” (with), signifying have in common; a partaker, sharer, in anything. See 2Cor.1:7; 1Pet.5:1; 1Cor.10:18.
  - b. Are “partakers of (with) the divine nature,” (“divine” from Theios).
    - (1) Theios is used of the power of God (2Pet.1:3, and of his nature (v.4), in each place, as that which proceeds from himself.
    - (2) Thayer, “in general, without reference to any individual deity.”
    - (3) “Divine nature”, i.e., the holiness distinctive of the divine nature; that is, the holy character which God possesses; in general, without reference to any individual deity or Godhood, as some have affirmed is meant, but in holy character. Cf. 1Pet.1:14-16.; 2Cor.6:17-7:1; Jno.17:17,19.
  - c. Are given “exceeding great and precious promises”
    - (1) Literally, “greatest and precious promises”
    - (2) According to Thayer,<sup>395</sup> this is “predicated of rank, as belonging to things to be esteemed highly for their importance, i.q. (equivalent to) Lat.

Gravis; of great moment, of great weight, important: 2Pet.1:4; Mt.22:36,38; Eph.5:32; 1Tim.3:16; Jno.5:36; 1Jno.5:9; Jno.7:37; 19:31; Ac.2:20; Jude 6; Rev.6:17; 16:14; 1Cor.9:11; 13:13.

- d) They are the “greatest promises” – promises that are honorable, held in honor, especially dear, esteemed, or valued at a great price.
5. “Promise” is defined as: “In a general sense, a declaration written or verbal made by one person to another, which binds the person who makes it, either in honor, conscience, or law, to do or forebear a certain act specified; a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of the act.” – Web.
  6. Both men and God make promises under oath. But God, unlike man, cannot lie and is not slack concerning his promises. See Tit. 1:1,2; Heb.6:13-20; 2Pet.3:9,10.
  7. God is faithful who promised, Heb.10:22,23; Cf. 1Cor.1:9; 1Th.5: 2,4; 2Th.3:3.
  8. Of course, God’s promises are conditional, with both his promises and the conditions being revealed in his written word, the Bible.
  9. Since we have assurance that God can be depended upon and is able to fulfill his promises based upon his revealed conditions, let us consider some of them and their conditions.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. ALL TRUTH PERTAINING TO SALVATION WAS TO BE REVEALED TO THE APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST IS A PROMISE OF THE FATHER AND THE SON, JESUS CHRIST.

1. Deut.18:18,19
2. Jno.14:26; 16:7,13; 17:7,8,18-21.
3. Lk.24:49; Ac.1:1-8; 2:1-4.
4. Eph.3:1-5; Gal.1:6-12; 1Jno.1:1-5; 4:6.

### B. ALL NATIONS TO BE BLESSED THROUGH THE SEED OF ABRAHAM WHO IS JESUS CHRIST IS A PROMISE OF GOD.

1. Gen.12:3; 18:18; 22:18.
2. Ac.3:22-25; Gal.3:6-18; Rom.4:13,14; Gal.3:19-29.

**C. TO SEND HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST, AS THE SAVIOR OF SINNERS, WAS THE PROMISE OF GOD, THE FAATHER.**

1. Jno.3:14-18; 20:30,31; Heb.8,9.
2. Jno.14:6; Ac.4:10-12; 2Th.1:6-10; Rom.1:16,17; Mk.16:15,16.

**D. THE PEACE OF GOD THAT PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING IS A PROMISE OF GOD, Phil.4:4-7.**

1. According to V.6a over-anxiety is to be avoided, “In nothing be anxious,” ASV.
2. According to V.6b we have inspired counsel or advice on how to overcome or avoid over-anxiety.
3. According to V.7 the peace of God that passeth all understanding is the promised result of pursuing the course advised in V.6.
  - a. This peace of God:
    - (1) Passeth all understanding – that is: it surpasses all understanding – referring to our mind, seat of reflective consciousness; the faculty of knowing; the seat of the understanding.
    - (2) It excels; “lit. to have over”; surpassingness; expressing position or state above or beyond something stated or implied.
    - (3) Shall keep (guard, protect, watch over) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Cf. Col.3:15; Eph.2:14-18.

**E. THAT JESUS CHRIST WOULD BE RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD TO SIT ON DAVID’S THRONE WAS A PROMISE OF GOD**

1. Lk.1:26-33 (Psa.89:3,4; 132:11; 2Sam.7:12,13; Isa.9:6,7; Jer.23:5,6; 33:15,18.

2. What he promised he fulfilled in the risen Lord Jesus Christ on Pentecost, Ac.2:29-36. See Mt.28:18; Eph.1:19-23; 1Cor.15:24-26.

#### **F. ETERNAL LIFE IS PROMISE OF GOD, Tit.1:2.**

1. It is the gift of God, Rom.6:23.
2. It is God's promise to those who believe on and obey Jesus Christ as God's Son, Jno.3:14-18,36; Mt.17:5; Heb.5:8,9; 1Jno.5:11-13; 2Tim.1:1; 1Jno.2:22-25; Heb.13:5,6; Rom.3:23-26.
3. See also Jude 21; 2Tim.1:18; Heb.4:1; 2Pet.2:20-21; Heb.2:1-3; 6:11,12; 10:25-31,36; 12:25.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

1. Surely the greatness and preciousness of God's promises are enough to touch our heart and move you to come to God seeking them.
2. Their greatness will appear to those who consider their Author, who is God.
3. Their greatness and value will appear to those who consider them in their own nature and peculiar, inherent, essential quality or character, or intrinsic worth.
4. Their greatness and preciousness will appear to those who consider the medium through which they have been made, or the way in which their blessings are secured and conferred: that is, by God in Christ.
5. Have you considered the greatness and preciousness of God's promises – as well as their end and use: which is, “that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.” – there is no other way.

#### **Summation of the great and precious promises of 2Pet.1:1-11:**





2Pet.1:1-3 inform us that:

1. Grace and peace is multiplied unto those who have obtained like precious faith through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ (i.e., God's means of making men righteous. Cf. Rom1:16,17; 3:21,22; 10:1-4) through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.
2. His divine power has given to us (saved believers) all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

2Pet.1:4-11 further declare that:

1. Whereby (by which; that is, through the glory and virtue to which the saved believers have been called mentioned in the preceding verse) exceeding great and precious promises are given, V.4a.
2. These exceeding great and precious promises of the Lord include such things as:
  - a. Escaping the corruption of the world, V.4c.
  - b. Becoming partakers of the divine nature, V.4b.
  - c. Making our calling and election sure by diligently adding certain virtues as we grow in faith, Vv.5-10.
  - d. Finally and ultimately our entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, V.11.