

# GOD' S UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES

## Ed Dye

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Promises of God are a common thing revealed in the scriptures – both O.T. and N.T.
2. His promises are of two kinds: Conditional and Unconditional.
  - a. All of God's conditional promises are always benevolent or gracious in nature and intent, and involve two beings, two wills and two actions.
    - (1) The two beings and two wills are God and man – God's will and man's.
    - (2) What man must do to be the recipient of God's promises to him, or his action or actions in meeting the stated conditions of the promises.
  - b. Obviously, an unconditional promise is one God has given without stipulating or attaching any conditions whatsoever to the promise, and it may involve or be benevolent or punitive or retributive or both in nature and intent, depending on the subject and the subjects involved.
3. In this lesson we are considering only God's Unconditional Promises.

### II. DISCUSSION

#### A. **GOD HAS UNCONDITIONALLY PROMISED NO MORE FLOOD TO DESTROY THE EARTH, Gen.9:8-17.**

1. God established an unconditional covenant with Noah and his seed after him, and with every living creature, that there would never be another flood to destroy the earth, vv.8-11.
2. As a token or a sign of this unconditional covenant between him and Noah and every living creature and the earth for perpetual generations, God set the rainbow in the cloud over the earth, vv.12-14.
3. God said he would look upon this bow in the cloud and remember this everlasting covenant between him and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth, vv.15-17.
4. There were no conditions attached to this covenant. It was an unconditional promise of God to man and the earth concerning the manner in which he would not destroy man, fowl, beast and the earth.
5. He didn't say he would never destroy this earth. But he did promise he would never destroy it anymore by means of a flood.

#### B. **GOD HAS UNCONDITIONALLY PROMISED NOT TO CURSE THE GROUND ANY MORE FOR MAN'S SAKE, Gen.8:20-22.**

1. Think back to Gen.3:17-19 before examining the text of Gen.8:20-22.
  - a. Adam yielded to his wife's influence and ate of the forbidden fruit, thus failing in the responsibility of his headship, Gen.3:6.
    - (1) This is why Rom.5:12; 1Cor.15:22 read as they do.
    - (2) On Adam, the man, is placed the blame.

b. Because he did this God said “cursed is the ground for thy sake,” Gen.3:17-19.

(1) Of course, woman also paid a price, Gen.3:16; 1Tim.2:11-14.

2. Now, after the flood of Noah’s day, God unconditionally promised not to curse the ground any more for man’s sake, Gen.8:20-22.

a. He would not curse the ground any more for man’s sake, even though the imagination of man’s heart be evil from his youth, v.21.

b. “Neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done,” v.21 (i.e., as long as the earth remaineth as per v.21).

c. “While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease,” v.22.

3. This is another unconditional promise of God to man.

a. Man is not called upon to do anything to bring about the fulfillment of this promise.

b. It will be honored or fulfilled regardless of whether or not man serves God faithfully.

4. Notice, he doesn’t say he would never destroy this earth. But he did make a promise concerning it as long as it remained.

5. This promise destroys the claim of those who say: “The time is coming when we will not be able to tell summer from winter, nor night from day.”

**C. GOD HAS UNCONDITIONALLY APPOINTED PHYSICAL DEATH FOR ALL MEN, EXCEPT THOSE LIVING AT THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING OF JESUS CHRIST, Heb.9:27; 1Cor.15:21,22.**

1. Cf. Eccl.3:1-8, emphasize v.2; 9:5; 12:7.

2. 1Cor.15:51,52; 1Th.4:13-17.

3. Both saint and sinner die physically. What they do or do not do has no bearing on that fact.

**D. GOD HAS UNCONDITIONALLY PROMISED THAT JESUS CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN IN A PERSONAL COMING, Ac.1:9-11; Mt.24:35,36,42,44; 1Cor.15:22,23; 1Th.1:9,10; Tit.2:11-13; Heb.9:27,28.**

1. Unfortunately, not all will be ready or prepared when he comes.

2. But, ready or not, he is coming. It’s an unconditional promise.

**E. GOD HAS PROMISED AN UNCONDITIONAL RESURRECTION OF ALL THE DEAD.**

1. Jesus taught it, Jno.5:28,29.

2. Luke recorded it as Paul taught it, Ac.24:15.

3. Paul clearly and emphatically taught it and recorded it, 1Cor.15:12-26,35-55; 2Cor.5:1; 1Th.4:13-18; Phil.3:20,21 (cf. John: 1Jno.3:2).

4. Saint or sinner; prepared or unprepared; ready or not – resurrected we will be!

**F. GOD HAS UNCONDITIONALLY PROMISED A DAY FOR THE FINAL JUDGMENT, WITH JESUS, HIS SON, AS THE JUDGE TO EXECUTE THAT JUDGMENT.**

1. Jno.5:22-29; Ac.17:30,31; Rom.2:16; 2Cor.5:10; 2Tim.4:1; Heb.9:27.
2. Whether or not you are ready for that judgment **IS** conditional!
3. But the fact of the day of judgment is by divine appointment and is unconditional – no conditions are attached to the fact of it!

**G. GOD HAS UNCONDITIONALLY PROMISED THAT HE WILL SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE DESTROY THIS PHYSICAL UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING IN IT BY FIRE.**

1. As we noted earlier in the study, God has promised he would never again destroy the earth with a flood, Gen.9:8-17.
2. Now, 2Pet.3:10-12 reveals God’s unconditional promise that he **WILL** in “the day of the Lord” destroy the heavens and the earth and all the works that are therein with fire.
  - a. That day “will come as a thief in the night,” v.10.
  - b. At that time “the heavens shall pass away with a great noise,” v.10
  - c. “the elements shall melt with fervent heat,” v.10.
  - d. “the hearth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up,” v.10.
  - e. “all these things (i.e., the heavens and the earth and the things therein) shall be dissolved,” v.11.
  - f. “the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved,” v.12.
  - g. “and the elements shall melt with fervent heat,” v.12.

**III. CONCLUSION**

1. Our attitudes, words and actions, either yours or mine, will not and cannot keep any of these seven things from occurring. They are unconditional promises of God – who is not slack concerning his promise or promises.
2. Being Almighty, All-Wise, All-Knowing, the God of both “goodness” and “severity”, there is no doubt he will fulfill these promises.
3. Whether or not we die in the Lord at the time of our physical death does depend upon how we have lived in the flesh, but not upon whether or not we die physically.
4. Whether of not we hear the Lord say “well done good and faithful servant” at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, the resurrection and the final judgment, does depend upon how we have lived in the flesh, whether in faith or in unbelief, but not upon whether or not Jesus will come again, raise all the dead and judge both the righteous and the unrighteous.
5. My friend or brother, what’s it going to be with you? Acceptance or rejection? E. salvation or E. damnation? You see, that is conditional!
6. You must act in harmony with God’s conditions revealed in his written word. Have you done it? If not, will you do it? Now?