

# HAS GOD PROMISED THESE THINGS?

2Pet.1:1-4

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. God has made many promises, and he never makes an idle or vain promise.
2. His promises are exceeding great and precious, as well as immutable and sure, based on the fact that he is faithful and one who cannot lie, 2Pet.1:2-4; Heb.6:13-20; 10:23; 1Th.5:24; 2Cor.1:20; 2Pet.3:9; Tit.1:2.
3. However, there are things for which men pray and for which they have a false hope because God has not promised them either in this world or in the world to come, in spite of what men think, say or do.
4. In order to consider some of these things, we raise the question designed to capture our attention: Has God promised the following things?

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. FIRST, HAS GOD PROMISED TO HEAR THE SINNER'S PRAYER?

1. The answer is an emphatic "No!" according to Jno.9:31.
  - a. Misunderstanding this, some have raised the question: If God will not hear a sinner's prayer, how can a sinner receive God's forgiveness?
  - b. Still, what Jno.9:31 says is true: "Now we know that God heareth not sinners."
  - c. Yet, in Ac.8:22,23, Simon, the sinner, is told to "repent and pray that he might be forgiven of his sin," of his wickedness.
  - d. Is there a contradiction between Jno.9:31 and Ac.8:22,23?
  - e. If not, what kind of sinner will be heard?
  - f. Each passage carries the answer within itself:
    - (1) Ac.9:31b: "...but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."
    - (2) Ac.8:22: Simon, the sinner, was told: "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."
    - (3) Cf. Lk.13:3; 2Cor.7:9-11; Mt.3:7,8.
2. See Prov28:9; Psa.66:18; 1Pet3:12

3. The sinner God will not hear is the sinner who continues in his sin – the impenitent sinner. The sinner God hears is the penitent sinner – the one who turns from his sin – the one who turns from his sin to God – by faith obeying God according to God’s revealed will or plan of salv.
4. Cornelius’ who needed to be told “what to do to be saved” (1Cor.10:6; 11:14) had his prayer answered before he was saved (Ac.10:1-6). But he was a special case, Ac.10,11,15. Still he was not saved by prayer, but by the gospel of Christ.

**B. HAS GOD PROMISED TO SAVE THE SINNER FROM HIS PAST SINS BEFORE AND WITHOUT BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS?**

1. Again, the scriptural is “No”.
2. The answer is “No” because even though salvation is by faith it is not by faith before and without baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins because Jesus himself said: Mk.16:15,16 (Cf. Lk.6:46)
  - a. See Ac.2:36-42; 22:16; Ac.10:1-6; 11:13,14;10:44-48; 15:6-9 (Eph.2:8; Rom.5:1; Tit.3:4-7; Eph.1:13; Ac.19:1-5).
3. Heb.5:8,9; 2Th.1:6-10.
4. Still, it is not baptism alone anymore than it is faith alone or grace alone

**C. HAS GOD PROMISED SALVATION TO ANYONE WHO IS NOT IN JESUS CHRIST AND IN THE CHURCH BELONGING TO HIM, WHICH IS, ACCORDING TO N.T., THE “CHURCH OF CHRIST”?**

1. Once more the answer is “No”. Scriptural proof is evident and abundant
2. Jesus Christ is the Savior; the one and only Savior; neither is there salvation in any other, Mt.1:21; Lk.19:10; Jno.8:21,24; Ac.14:10-12; 2:21,36-38; 13:38,39; Eph.1:3; 2Tim.2:10.
3. By faith we are baptized into Jesus Christ, the only Savior, where salvation is, Rom.6:3-6; Gal.3:26,27.
4. But when by faith we are baptized into him, we are also saved and baptized into his body, the church belonging to him, which is the means by which, and the time when, he adds all the saved to the church, 1Cor.12:12,13; Ac.2:40,41,47; Eph.1:22,23; Col.1:18,24.
5. The church, which is composed of the saved, is the house of God (God’s family, his sons and daughters in the faith), the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, 1Tim.3:14,15.

6. This is the case because they are the “born again,” the “born anew,” Jno.3:3-5; 1Pet.1:22-25; Mk.15:15,16; Ac.2:36-38; 2Cor.5:17.

**D. HAS GOD PROMISED SAVED BELIEVER THE ACTUAL POSSESSION OF ETERNAL LIFE IN THE HERE AND NOW, IN THIS PRESENT LIFE, IN THIS THEIR PRESENT EARTHLY EXISTENCE?**

1. “No!” Scriptural proof?
2. Tit.1:2; Rom.8:24,25.
3. Mk.10:28-30.
4. It’s a present conditional promise, not a present, actual possession, 1Jno.2:24,25. Cf. Jude21; 2Tim.1:18.

**E. HAS GOD PROMISED US TOMORROW, OR HAS HE PROMISED US ANOTHER DAY OF EARTHLY EXISTENCE AFTER THIS ONE, IN WHICH TO PREPARE FOR THE RESURRECTION, FINAL JUDGMENT, AND ETERNITY IN HEAVEN?**

1. No!
2. Job 14:1,2. Marg. “short of days”
3. Jas.4:13,16.
4. We know we shall die. We do not know when or how!
5. We know we can be prepared for death whenever it come. We can also know how to be prepared for it.
6. Furthermore, we can know whether or not we are presently prepared for it.

**F. HAS GOD PROMISED ANYONE WHO HAS DIED PHYSICALLY AND ALSO DIED IN SIN ANOTHER CHANCE AFTER DEATH TO PREPARE FOR SALVATION IN HEAVEN WITH THE REDEEMED?**

1. Once again the Bible answer is “NO!” in spite of the insistence of some to the contrary, with some teaching a “second chance” at the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment, with others teaching the doctrine of “Reincarnation.”
2. Heb.9:27,28.
3. Jno.5:28,29; Cf. Eccl.12:13,14; 2Cor.5:10.
4. Lk.16:19-31.
5. 1Th.4:13-18; Jno.8:21,24.

6. At the resurrection and final judgment it's too late to prepare for the future; for our destiny is sealed at the time of our physical death, whereas at the resurrection and final judgment the sentence is executed, Jno.5:28,29; Mt.7:21-23; 2Th.1:6-10.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

1. God's promises are exceeding great and precious, as well as immutable and sure, based on the fact of his very nature, due to which he is faithful and one who cannot lie.
2. The blessings of his promises are available to all men on conditions revealed in the promises, which must be accepted and honored while in the fleshly body.
3. The blessings of his promises are not extended to men who die in sin. After death in sin there is no hope for the sinner – no blessings available – only eternal torment, everlasting ruin, along with and in the place “prepared for the devil and his angels.”
4. Man's erroneous thinking and teaching to the contrary will not change this biblical truth!