



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis Sermon Series

Supports Session 6: Blessed

Sermon Title: "A Firm Promise from a Faithful God" (Psalm 118:22-29)

### Connection to Session 6

Because God is faithful, we can trust Him to keep His promises. His greatest promise was to send the Messiah to save the world from sin. God faithfully kept that promise.

### Introduction/Opening

The story goes that when the astronauts were getting ready to make their first trip to the moon, a group of Native Americans approached them and gave them a letter. They asked them to give it to any intelligent creatures who lived there. The astronauts consented, but of course, they found no life on the moon. On the way back, their curiosity got the better of them, and they opened the letter. It said, "Don't let these astronauts make a treaty with you." That story is probably fictional, but you get the point. Our government made quite a few treaties with the Native Americans and later broke them, so they had good reason to be cynical. I'm glad to know that, in a world where deception has become so commonplace, we have a God who is absolutely trustworthy. We often fail Him, but He never fails us. The apostles believed this Psalm was a prophecy of the Messiah, and it brings out three important truths about Him.

### Outline

#### 1. His supremacy (vv. 22-23).

- a) The Psalmist compared the Messiah to a stone rejected by the builders.
  - i. Builders selected stones with which to construct a building, and some stones were rejected as unworthy.
  - ii. Suppose the architect came along and selected one of the discarded stones to be the cornerstone? The builders would have been stunned, because the cornerstone was the most important stone in the building.
- b) How does this apply to Jesus?
  - i. He was rejected by the Jewish religious leaders and many of His own people.
  - ii. Nevertheless, God chose Him to be the cornerstone, and He will ultimately reign whether people believe in Him or not (Phil. 2:9-11).

#### 2. His salvation (vv. 24-26).

- a) "This is the day the LORD has made" (v. 24)
  - i. The people came together to publicly praise God for His deliverance and goodness.
  - ii. This also looked ahead to the salvation Jesus would one day purchase by His death on the cross.

- b) “He who comes in the name of the LORD is blessed” (v. 26).
  - i. The people shouted these words when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (see Matt. 21:9).
  - ii. Jesus rode the donkey in fulfillment of prophecy (Zech. 9:9). Thus, He was making an open claim to be the promised Messiah.
  - iii. The people thought He had come to save them from the Romans, but He actually came to free them (and us) from sin and death.

### **3. His sacrifice (vv. 27-29).**

- a) When people worshipped in the Old Testament, they brought animals as sacrifices.
  - i. Blood sacrifices were a gruesome sight, but they reminded people of the terrible price of sin.
  - ii. Today’s world doesn’t take sin seriously, but God does.
- b) We should thank God for His mercy and faithfulness.
  - i. His mercy has saved us from sin, and His faithfulness keeps us.
  - ii. Our standing with God does not depend on our faithfulness, but on His faithfulness (John 10:25-30).

## **Conclusion**

I remember a *Dennis the Menace* comic strip years ago that showed Dennis and his parents sitting in church. His father was putting money in the offering plate, and Dennis asked, “Is this buying us a ticket to heaven?” Unfortunately, some people seem to think so. They think if they come to church and give money to the Lord’s work, then they’re earning brownie points with God. We cannot impress God with our goodness and benevolence in this way. He knows us inside and out. Besides, we don’t have anything that He didn’t give us in the first place. We don’t gather for worship to try and impress God. We gather to thank Him for what He’s done for us. Through God’s mercy and grace, He has saved us from the penalty we deserve. Let us rejoice and be glad!

*Ken Jones has been pastor of Worsham Baptist Church in Farmville, Virginia, since 2007. He has a B.S. in History from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and an MDiv. from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Celia, is an associate professor of Political Science at Hampden-Sydney College.*

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