



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Psalms Sermon Series

Supports Session 5: God's Promise

Sermon Title: "Three Promises of God" (Psalm 132:14-16)

Connection to Session 5

In Psalm 132, the psalmist recounted promises God made to His people: His presence, satisfaction, and salvation. The result of these promises? His people would "shout for joy" (Ps. 132:16). These three promises are all fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Introduction/Opening

Everyone, at one point or another, has made a promise to someone else. In marriage, we promise to cherish our spouse until death. In business dealings, we promise to uphold our end of the contract. In our world, it is all too common that promises are broken, because the people who make the promises are broken. However, when God, who cannot lie (Titus 1:2), makes a promise, He will never break it. This text centers on three promises God made to His people.

Outline

1. God's Presence (Ps. 132:14)

- a. Throughout the Bible, God demonstrated His desire to be with His people. From the earliest chapters in Genesis, we see that God created Adam and Eve to walk in His presence in the garden of Eden in unhindered fellowship. After they sinned, Adam and Eve hid from the presence of God (Gen. 3:8).
- b. In the Old Testament, God demonstrated His presence in multiple ways. He was with His people in the cloud and fire as they left Egypt (Ex. 13–14). He was with them in the tabernacle (Ex. 25:8). He was also present with them in the temple (2 Chron. 7:1-3).
- c. In Psalm 132:14, the psalmist spoke prophetically of Jesus's future reign (a promise God gave to David in 2 Samuel 7). The Messiah, Jesus Christ, came to fulfill this promise.
- d. In Jesus Christ, we come face to face with the presence of God. Jesus Himself is the true and better temple where the presence of God dwells (John 2:19). Paul wrote, "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him" (Col. 1:19). God demonstrated His commitment to be with us by sending His Son Jesus to take on human form and die in our place, forgiving sin, and thus restoring our relationship with Him.

2. Satisfaction (Ps. 132:15)

- a. The psalmist recounted God’s promise to bless Zion with food and satisfy its needy with bread (Ps. 132:15). God has always been the provider for His people. At creation, God provided everything Adam and Eve needed for food and life (Gen. 2:16).
- b. During the Israelites’ time of wandering in the wilderness, God provided food for His people in the form of manna and quail (Ex. 16). Still, the Israelites complained about God’s provision, demonstrating their lack of faith and gratitude for what the Lord provided.
- c. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pronounced blessing on the poor in spirit “for the kingdom of heaven is theirs” and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, “for they will be filled” (Matt. 5:3,6). Practically speaking, Jesus also told us not to worry about food and clothing because God knows what we need (6:25). Through Jesus, we have everything we need for our earthly life and our eternal life.

3. Salvation (Ps. 132:16)

- a. Next, the psalmist recounts God’s promise to “clothe its priests with salvation” (Ps. 132:16). It is important to note that God will provide the clothing of salvation. In the Bible, clothing language is common when discussing salvation. For example, after Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, “The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them” (Gen. 3:21). Their fig leaf coverings were insufficient to cover their sin and shame. God had to provide clothing for them through the death of an animal.
- b. We should rejoice in our salvation. In Psalm 32:1, the psalmist wrote, “How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!” As Isaiah 61:10 says, “I rejoice greatly in the LORD, I exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness.”
- c. This joy is for all Christians. The priests were a particular group responsible for facilitating the worship of God in the Old Testament. However, in the New Testament, the entire church is a “royal priesthood” (1 Pet. 2:9). All who have faith in Christ get to enjoy the blessing of salvation, being clothed in garments of grace.

Conclusion

God is a promising God. Though we may be tempted to doubt God’s promise when we are faced with enemies or trying circumstances, God has a history of making good on what He says He will do. All we have to do is look to Jesus, and we will see that all of God’s promises are truly “yes” in Him (2 Cor. 1:20). We can rejoice in His promises, knowing we will be with Him, we will be satisfied, and we will be saved.

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