

“THE LORD WILL FULFILL HIS PROMISES IN TIME.”
(Jeremiah 33:14-16) 1st ADVENT

When God declares to do or refrain from doing something that is a promise. A promise binds God legally and gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect a fulfillment in God's good time. God's promise is always a binding declaration. A promise may be absolute and must be fulfilled at any cost. A conditional promise obligates the expected recipient to fulfill certain stipulations put in place by God. The fulfillment promise shows God's kindness and strict integrity. Today's Old Testament lesson three promises below. That ... Israel will be brought back from Babylonian captivity.

1. David's descendant (by the name of Jesus) will fulfill justice and righteousness.
2. The promise that Jesus will be Our Righteous Savior.

Dear friends in Christ, God's promises are fulfilled if we are willing to wait on Him. Waiting calls for "patience," which is the ability to endure whatever we have to endure without complaining. But "patience" is not a trait that we all have. We do not have the ability to wait with a high degree of perseverance without complaining. Imagine yourself in a checkout line while counting people ahead of you, will you wait patiently without saying a single curse word? I heard of a guy who opened fire, killing another shopper on Black Friday for lack of patience. We might blame the clerk for the slowness of the line as each item is scanned. What about when you call a number and the recorded message puts you on hold while assuring you that the next available agent will be with me shortly, will you wait patiently? I acknowledge that we are instant people; people who are addicted to the remote control. That's why we go to a drive thru a fast food restaurant. Whatever we want we want it 'now'.

People who lived in Jeremiah's time had no remote control or fast food restaurants, or candles on the Advent Wreath to help them count the time while they waited to be delivered. The Jews waited for seventy years to be released from Babylonian captivity; some were not able to see the day of redemption!

Comprehending the known and unknown time-frames of God's promises past, present or future is beyond human understanding. It requires patience. We must wait on the Lord to fulfill his promises and can do nothing to hasten them. All we can do is to count on God to fulfill His promises at His own good time and we must trust Him.

There are multiple examples in the Bible where people had to wait on God to fulfill His promises without having to check calendar dates. Let us start with God's promise to Adam where Adam's offspring would render a crushing blow to the serpent's head. That didn't come to pass until Jesus was born. Adam and Eve were long gone when that came to pass. Abraham waited long before he received his promise for a son. Abraham had to trust God. Years passed before the prophecy of Isaiah in chapter 7:10-14 came to fulfillment. Mary the Mother of Jesus was that *virgin gave birth to a Son* identified as **Immanuel**, which means, **God-With-Us** in Matthew 1:23. It took decades for the promised "**shoot**" to sprout from **the root of Jesse and the Righteous Branch** to sprout from **David's line prophesied** in the Book of Jeremiah to administer **justice and righteousness** in the land (Jer. 33:15). It happened after the

birth of Jesus. God's Promises are fulfilled in God's good time. Learn this, God NEVER changes His Word when he makes an absolute promise. Whatever God promises, God fulfills regardless of the time! Waiting for any promise to come to pass is God's test on human patience; it is a test of our faith; it is a test of surrender to God's will. The Lord assures us all that, *"The days are coming when He will fulfill the gracious promises He made to the house of Israel and...of Judah.* We know that the days came and the Lord sent Jesus, who is David's descendant **to justify us; and to cloth us with His righteousness ...And the promise was fulfilled!**

How would Jesus bring justice and righteousness to His people? How will Christ present Himself as **Our Righteous Savior**? How will Christ gain control of a world-wide kingdom on the throne of David? How would he having been born a human being subject to God's law, serve as Son of God, completely complying with God's commandment?

We know that Jesus obeyed the law, He lived a perfectly righteous life and offered himself as a Substitute for sin. You & I are not and cannot save ourselves from sin under which we are captive. But Jesus credits us with his holiness---Living an absolutely innocent life, Jesus allowed himself to be crucified as our Savior. He offered to God the only perfect sacrifice satisfactory to God, of which God accepted as full payment for our sins' debt by His death. Jesus' holy, righteous life & his innocent and atoning death satisfied God's justice to make him our Righteousness. Every sin's penalty was paid for when Jesus suffered as our Substitute. Thru Christ's death, God justifies every sinner that believes in Christ. The Lord declares us forgiven; He declares us holy in His sight because of the completed work of Christ on the cross.

As Christians, we confess in our Christian faith that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. This is a promise! Counting down the days is not what we must do as we wait for the Lord's Second coming. We already know Jesus is the Son of David, the Son of God and the Savior of the world and His Kingdom has no end; His priestly sacrifice has no end. Jeremiah proclaimed that Jesus would sit on David's throne. His offer was a priestly sacrifice. Jesus is **Immanuel, God-With-Us** and for Us, thus fulfilling the Isaiah's prophecy in Chapter number 7. This makes Jesus the eternal King and the great high Priest in the order of Melkzedek.

While Jesus' second coming as Judge of the world puts no calendar dates, years or seasons in place, God revealed to us His detailed identity as the Judge and **Our Righteous Savior**. We know that the Righteous Savior is **Abraham's offspring** in Gen. 22, and that **scepter that will not depart from Judah, and that He is "A shoot that comes from the stump of Jesse.** This is the one of whom we are promised to come for second time as Judge. We know that His second coming will be a pleasant one for the elect that we are although it will be a surprise. Our duty is to wait for it. **Faithful souls that now rest in peace will have nothing to fear for He is "Our Righteous Judge."** I am convinced that Jesus has already prepared a way for us believers by His sacrificial death on the Cross. --He will create a **"new heavens and a new earth; the home of righteous under Him as the Lord of Righteousness,"** thus perfectly replacing our current world order. Let us wait patiently **'Our Lord of Righteousness** to justify us, His chosen ones! Amen.