

The Error In Claiming Biblical Promises

The lyrics of a Christian song from the 1930s includes this verse:

“Every promise in the book is mine
Every promise in the book is mine
From Genesis to Revelation
Every chapter, every verse and every line
They all are blessings of His love divine
Every promise in the book is mine”¹

The expression “Every promise in the book is mine” that’s found in these lyrics has been sung², declared and believed by evangelicals for nearly 100 years. The main users of the expression being the Southern Baptists & Pentecostals. (I used to be a pentecostal so I’ve heard it used many times.)

These Christians believe that every promise “from Genesis to Revelation”³ are theirs because they belong to Christ. That includes all the OC promises to Abraham as well as anything under the NC. But is this belief firmly founded and relevant in the Kingdom matter of things?

The belief is most likely based on this Bible verse:

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) – *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV) – *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

The most probable reasoning drawn from this verse is: We are “in Christ”, so all God’s promises are “yes” for us.

The problem with this understanding is three-fold: (1) not all promises are applicable: (2) the verse has been wrongly understood; & (3) there’s a bigger picture.

(1) Have you ever tried to claim someone else’s promises in the past? You wouldn’t have done that because it doesn’t work that way. If your CEO promises a worker a company car for their transport, you can’t walk up to the company’s finance department and order one for yourself. They’d tell you to ‘wake up to yourself’. Sure, you could ask your boss for one so you could have a company car as well, but you would be out of order if you tried to get one on another person’s promise from the CEO.

The same goes with scripture. Any promises there must be relevant to you – i.e. you must be spiritually & legally able to claim it. If not, you’d be out of line to try to claim it, and if you did, it wouldn’t materialize anyway. For example:

- Is God’s promise to Eve that she would have excessive pain in childbirth⁴ something a man could claim?
- Is God’s promise to Israel that their territory would extend from the Nile river to the Euphrates river⁵ a promise you can claim?
- What about God’s promise to King David that he’d not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel? Can you claim that for your family?

1 – This version: “Every Promise In The Book Is Mine” by the The Sensational Nightingales (2005)
mojim.com/usy128935x1x1.htm

2 – hymnary.org/text/every_promise_in_the_book

3 – This version: “Every Promise In The Book Is Mine” by the The Sensational Nightingales (2005)
mojim.com/usy128935x1x1.htm

4 – Genesis 3:16

5 – Exodus 23:31

- Can you claim for your circumstances God’s promise to Abraham: Those who bless Abraham God will bless and those who curse him will be cursed⁶? Have you seen those who speak against you (curse you) get cursed by God in the here-&-now, or do they continue to prosper?
- There’s God’s promise that he’d specifically wipe out the Cherehites from the face of the Earth.⁷ Do you want to claim that promise somehow?
- Finally, there’s God’s promise to Israel that he will bring disease, famine and calamity if they don’t obey him and keep his commandments.⁸ These are curses that were promised, but they are still promises recorded in the Bible. Are you intending to claim God’s curses as well?

It should be quite clear that a person **can’t** claim every promise in the Bible. It’s ludicrous to entertain such an idea.

(2) The Passion Translation makes clear the meaning of the “promises” verse showing that it implies something quite different:

2 Corinthians 1:20 (TPT) – *For all of God’s promises find their “yes” of fulfillment in him. And as his “yes” and our “amen” ascend to God, we bring him glory!*

Notice that the meaning of this verse is that the promises are “fulfilled in him”. He (Jesus Christ) is the fulfilment of all of God’s promises – not the availability of promises to us, but to us he is their fulfilment.

This marries perfectly with the Kingdom paradigm: Everything is in him⁹. This was Paul’s understanding of the NC and it’s the essence of the CCOP message¹⁰ we received from the King in 2019.

Unfortunately, Christianity has not focussed on the King living his life in us and through us so we haven’t been taught it. This arrangement is the pinnacle of our Kingdom life and it only comes from an intimate relationship with him and our total surrender to him to live his life in us, not living own life. When we get to this point we are fully in a place to receive God’s favour.

On another point, the Aramaic version of “*all the promises of God in Him*” can be translated “*All of the kingdoms of God are in him*”.¹¹ Now that’s very different. But why look at the ancient Aramaic texts? When we look at the Greek text to translate the Hebrew thoughts of Paul we don’t really get what he’s thinking. This is the reason why Brian Simmons was commissioned by the Lord to translate the NT from the Hebrew and Aramaic. The nice thing about the Aramaic is that it’s the language of Judea and Galilee where Jesus and his disciples lived, and being a Semitic language like Hebrew, it’s better at uncovering Hebrew thinking in ancient texts.

On another note of incongruity with this verse, the elliptical sentence “*And as his “yes” and our “amen” ascend to God, we bring him glory!*” could *imply* either of the following:¹²

1. It is through Christ that we hear and believe God’s promises and say the declaration of our faith, “Amen”, or
2. It is Christ who speaks through us the “Amen” (of faith).

Confused? Well, that’s why being dogmatic about the translation we approve of is a false mindset.

6 – Genesis 12:3

7 – Zephaniah 2:5

8 – Leviticus 26:14-39

9 – Acts 17:28

10 – “Genuine Kingdom Life: 27-12-2019”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/MESSAGE-Genuine-Kingdom-Life-27-12-2019.pdf

11 – www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+1%3A20&version=TPT

12 – www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+1%3A20&version=TPT

(3) It is common to believe that just because the Bible says something's available to us that it's a *fete accompli*. Not so. There's the bigger picture to consider and there are often implied provisos, and these are often hidden from view.

To understand what I mean, here's two examples. In maths and science we find the following bigger pictures:

- Pythagoras' Theorem ($a^2=b^2+c^2$) is not a complete rule operating autonomously. It's actually a subset of the Cosine Rule ($a^2=b^2+c^2-2b \cdot c \cdot \text{Cos}\theta$). This is because $\text{Cos}90$ is zero in a right-angled triangle which eliminates the subtraction on the right-hand side.
- The Law of Gravity ('What goes up must come down') is not a complete law in itself, operating independent of anything else. It's actually a subset of the Universal Law of Gravitational Attraction ('All objects attract each other'). For us, gravity is the universal attraction between objects and planet Earth.

A top high school student might think that they fully understand the Law of Gravity and Pythagoras' Theorem because they're able to do all the equations and questions their teacher gives them. It's a surprise to them when they get to college or university to find out that they didn't know everything on these matters because there's more to know to get the complete picture for both of these principles.

The same happens with Bible-believing Christians. They may think they understand some theological idea, but revelation later on shows that they didn't. This has happened to me many times.

You see, in the Kingdom (i.e. the reality of spiritual life) the Trinity is in control, not the church, not the Bible, and what not their theology tells them. Everything is under the oversight of the King who has been given charge of all things spiritual and natural until everything is back in the order they were at creation.

Every promise has conditions, stated or implied. Covenants are the same – they can be broken if the conditions are not adhered to by one of the parties to the contract.

Some promises in the Bible have conditions attached to them. For example:

- Israel's blessings¹³ had conditions for the blessings to be available.¹⁴
- If an Israelite wanted to live long and prosper as part of the Abrahamic blessing then they had to honour their parents a child.¹⁵
- A husband's effectiveness in prayer is contingent on treating his wife properly.¹⁶

Many promises are contingent on being in alignment with Heaven. However, this is not obvious if the Bible verses containing the promises are selected in isolation. Alignment with Heaven includes these:

- i. obedience to the voice of the Spirit,
- ii. compliance with the King's wishes,
- iii. heart in the right place displaying foremost love only for our Beloved,
- iv. a driving desire to be about Father's business (Kingdom business),
- v. pliability so that personal desires can be overridden by Kingdom requirements,
- vi. personal relationships functioning ways they should in the Kingdom, &
- vii. being humble.

13 – Leviticus 26:14-39

14 – Leviticus 26:14-39

15 – Exodus 20:12

16 – 1 Peter 3:7

Alignment has been hidden from most Christians, as it was for me in the past. Aligning with Heaven has been a major focus of our King's messages to CCOP for his people in Australia over the past 12 months – 10 monthly messages included this theme.¹⁷ This is vitally important for the expansion of the Kingdom and for the Kingdom to impact Australia in positive ways. This means: If we want to claim the promise of Kingdom blessings for our nation so it prospers, then it's the obligation of each of us to be in alignment with Heaven. Poor national alignment → limited national blessing.

God gives wisdom to every one “liberally and without reproach” but a person who asks for it must ask in faith.¹⁸ A double-minded person cannot expect to receive anything they request if they haven't operated in faith. Faith is the condition for receiving, even though it would be unknown had it not been recorded in James. A person who is ignorant of this need for faith can't claim the promise that God will provide all their needs and expect to get anything. Without genuine faith you can't please God.

From a Kingdom standpoint a person can't claim all the promises in the Bible. Our analysis above shows that there may be a limited number that a person can actually stand on, but this ultimately depends on their spiritual maturity as a son and how they operate in the Kingdom.

AN IMPORTANT LESSON: I remember quite distinctly as a lad of 10 years going to a farm for the first time in my life. I explored the paddock around the sheep yards and came back to the homestead with the cranium of a sheep's skull. I boldly told my dad that it was the skeleton of a frog. He disagreed with me, so I told him I'd been studying frogs and I knew what it was. BIG lesson to learn: **It's easy to think you've got the truth about something when you don't.**

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17 – e.g. “MESSAGE-The Restoration of Masculinity and Femininity – 20-1-2019”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MESSAGE-The-Restoration-of-Masculinity-and-Femininity-20-1-2019.pdf

“MESSAGE-The way ahead for Australia – 19-5-2019”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/MESSAGE-The-way-ahead-for-Australia-19-5-2019.pdf

“MESSAGE-Why Bleak Messages – 8-11-2019”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/MESSAGE-Why-Bleak-Messages-8-11-2019.pdf

18 – James 1:5-8