

IDEA: Promises give us the confidence to trust and to move forward.

Promises help us develop trust and give us grounds to be found **trustworthy**.

But what happens when promises are broken? That kind of disappointment sticks with us, doesn't it? It leaves us wondering, *Can I trust anyone to keep their word?*

The Promise: Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike/crush his heel."

His promise is this, I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. Enmity: A Deep and bitter opposition.

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The first "good news" (protoevangelium)—the first gospel. Seed of woman (vs. seed of man)
Matthew 1:18-22

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be **pregnant through the Holy Spirit**. **20** But after he [Joseph] had considered [divorcing Mary], an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus**, because he will **save his people** from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Satan's work to destroy the promised deliverer: Pharaoh, Haman, Herod,

Matthew 2:13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

1. The man will Crush the serpent's Head: 1 John 3:8 tells us, *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."*

2. There will be suffering for the deliverer. ** Isaiah 53:4-12 **

Hebrews 2:14 says, *"Through His death, He destroyed the one who has the power of death—that is, the devil."* - CSB

Galatians 4:4-7 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

You are no longer a slave. You are no longer held captive by the ways of this world and the ways of the devil.

For those that have put their faith in Jesus, He has delivered you. He has set you free. And there should be a change that has happened in your heart.

1 John 2:15-16 If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

The promise: bring enmity:

1 John 3:13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

John 16:33 - Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. **BUT TAKE HEART! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!**"

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

The prophecy or promise that Zechariah prayed concerning his son John and the coming of the Deliverer. Notice how his prayer is the answer to the Promise in Genesis 3.

LUKE 1:68-79:

SO WHAT?

A promise is an opportunity to grow in trust. We call that faith.

1. What is God waiting for you to finally move past (in trusting Him)?
2. If God is the deliverer, who came to destroy the work of the devil, then He wants to destroy it all, and that includes every sin and pleasure and comfort that you and I continue to hold to.
3. When was the last time you asked God to fulfill what He said? Just like a little child, doubting their father, asking them, "do you promise?" Ask God to show Himself faithful. He always will!