

Promises on Trial: Can God Be Trusted?

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“Read my lips...” – George Bush

The Tension - If Lord's promises to Israel have failed, what does that mean for Him and us?

Brief Overview - What did God promise Israel via the Patriarchs?

- People & Nation — a great nation; numerous offspring (Gen 12:2; 15:5; 22:17).
- Land — Canaan with defined boundaries (Gen 12:7; 15:18–21; 17:8).
- Blessing to the Nations — all families blessed through Abraham's seed (Gen 12:3; 22:18).
- Everlasting Covenant — sworn by God Himself (Gen 17:7–8; 22:16–17).
- Davidic King — throne/kingdom forever (2 Sam 7:12–16; Ps 89:3–4, 28–37).
- New Covenant — forgiveness, new heart, Spirit, restoration to the land (Jer 31:31–37; Ezek 36:24–28; 37:21–28).

Romans 11:25–29

1) God's Character Hasn't Changed

Principle: Read promises in light of the Promiser's character—God does not change (Mal 3:6; Num 23:19).

2) God's Word Hasn't Changed

Principle: Past literal fulfillments set expectations for future fulfillments (Isa 40:8; Matt 5:18).

3) Jesus' Teaching Hasn't Changed

Principle: Take Jesus at plain sense unless compelled otherwise—He spoke of restoration as delayed, not cancelled (Matt 19:28; Acts 1:6–7).

Bottom Line & Application

- Stay humble — Avoid arrogance toward Israel (Rom 11:18–21).
- Stay confident — The covenant-keeping God will keep His promises to you.
- Stay on mission — God is gathering Gentiles and Jews until His plan is complete.

Closing: Trust the Promiser

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” — Corrie ten Boom