

1) INTRO

- We’re people who’re used to broken promises
- As a democracy-driven people (of varying degrees) in North America, we’re especially used to broken promises...aren’t we?
 - We elect politicians who make countless promises
 - And, they try to tell us they can keep those promises while also lowering taxes
 - Whether it’s PM Trudeau or President Trump, we’re plagued by the epidemic of broken promises
- We’re also people who know the hurt of broken promises from employers, friends, and family
 - We’ve all been in situations where someone’s promised us something
 - And, we look forward to the fulfillment of that promise
 - But, all too often that promise is never followed through on...I know I’ve been guilty of that too...we all have
- And, there are varying degrees for why people make promises and don’t keep them
 - Sometimes, it can be out of a generous heart
 - But, then we find we’re not able to keep them
 - Time and finances and energy might get in the way of our fulfilling that promise/or promises
 - Sometimes, promises are made out of a heart of pride
 - Out of a desire to look good...or to win the admiration and respect of others
 - Sometimes, promises are made with an agenda in mind
 - With a heart that’s looking out for me/#1/for MY best interests
 - Probably sometimes, promises are made w/ all these reasons – and more – even if we might not realize it at the moment
- But, we’re all used to broken promises, sadly
- And, this can taint the way we view – or receive – promises when they’re made to us
 - We can grow skeptical
 - Or, very wary of the actual reality of whether this person’s gonna be able to carry out this promise...or if they even want to fulfill the promise they made
 - We can fall into the self-defense mode of not even trusting people
 - Sometimes, even those who’re closest to us
 - Family, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ
 - And, even God
- Even if we don’t intend to, our skeptical hearts, can even cause us to not fully trust God and his promises
 - Our hearts that are marred and hurt and broken by sin can affect the way we view God...in a bad way
 - In our own sin too, our hearts are a battleground for how we view God and his goodness and his truthfulness and his faithfulness...he’s always faithful to keep his promises
- So, as we reflect on our text today, we’re gonna wrestle with this – **do we trust God and his promises?**
 - **Do we trust God and his promises or do we allow our skeptical hearts to get in the way of that?**
- As we look at portions of these 5 chapters today, we’ll see in here the Davidic Covenant
 - We’ll see God’s promise to us and to David that God’s gonna raise up an eternal king
 - To reign and rule over all things for all time
 - And, Jesus is that King that God’s gonna point us to in our text today

- But, before we get to that promise, we come on the heels of the first 5 chapters last week
 - Where we saw the mighty and great working of God in our lives while we wait for him/wait on him to work in his time and for his glory
 - We saw that God uses our waiting on him and then events in our lives to shape us and mold us and strengthen us and give us deep roots so that we're able to faithfully live for him as we're relying on him
 - And, we saw this in the life of David as he waited on God to be king of Israel
 - David was earlier anointed king of Israel and so he knew the throne was his, but he never sought to dethrone King Saul
 - He waited on God
 - Even in the midst of Saul's constant attempts to kill David, he waited on God
 - And, ultimately, we saw last week in chapter 5 that David was finally anointed as king of Israel
 - Just as God promised, he made David the king of Israel
- So, as we jump into chapter 6 today, we see now the time period when David's the king of Israel

2) CHAPTER 6

- 6:1-15
- In this part of the narrative now, we see that David's desire's to bring the ark of the God/covenant back to Jerusalem
- The ark's been away from Israel for a long time
 - Way back in 1 Samuel 4, the ark was captured by the Philistines
 - And, now the ark's returning to the Israelites
 - B/c David wanted to bring the ark back to the nation of Israel
- And, this is a good thing...even though some of the outcome wasn't good
 - The significance of David capturing the ark shows that God leaving the land of unfaithful people
 - And, by bringing the ark to Jerusalem, the picture's that the Lord was officially and public ally returning to his people
 - So, this is a good thing
- However....it's been said that "it was certainly a noble desire of David to bring the ark back to Jerusalem but that he shows 'zeal without knowledge'"
 - We see King David here doing a good work in a wrong way
 - After defeating the Philistines, David just wants to get the ark back to Jerusalem
 - And, in his zeal he doesn't consult the Levites...OT law required that they carry the ark
 - OT law required the sons of Kohath to carry the ark...Kohath was a son of Levi
 - And, they were supposed to carry the ark using the prescribed poles...on their shoulders
 - Now, David knew this
 - But, in his zeal, we see him follow the worldly example of the Philistines by transporting the ark on a cart
 - I do think this is a good pause for us to ask ourselves if we find ourselves following worldly examples rather than God's Word
 - Just like David, we can know what God shows us in his Word of how to live
 - But, are we following it?
 - Or, do we see the world's examples and try to go the easy route/shortcut?
 - Hiding God's Word in our heart vs quick 5 min devo

- Meditate on the Bible, memorize it?
- Pray without ceasing or too busy?
- Quick to forgive or hold grudges?
- Seek purity or brush off a sex scene in a movie or lyrics in a song or prose in a novel?
- Rely on the HS or try to rationalize in our minds?
- And, we can all do better in all these areas...and more
- Praise the Lord he helps us for our own depth of growth and maturity in him
 - And also so that we're able to live for him and shine for him at home, work, school, and community b/c we're walking w/ the Word of God as our God...not blindly following the world's ways
- But, here in the transporting of the ark, David followed the world's ways
- And, in their moving of the ark, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah tried to catch the ark to keep it from falling to the ground
 - And, in doing so, the Lord struck down Uzzah and he died there right next to the ark
- Now, it can easy for us to wonder what's going on here
 - After all, Uzzah was simply trying to keep the ark from touching the ground, right?
 - John MacArthur – “No matter how innocently it was done, touching the ark was in direct violation of God's law and was to result in death (Num 4:15). This was a means of preserving the sense of God's holiness and the fear of drawing near to him without appropriate preparation.”
 - Violation of God's law deserves death
 - Sin against God deserves death
 - He's the righteous judge and, as God, he gets to decide
 - God is perfectly holy, loving, just, and good – all in perfect balance with each other
 - He's the one who makes the rules not us
 - Sin against God deserves death b/c God's completely holy
 - And, anything tainted by sin can't be in his presences
 - And, in our flesh, we're marred by sin
 - In fact, RC Sproul says that Uzzah was struck down by God b/c Uzzah thought he was cleaner than dirt
 - Dirt's not evil
 - Dirt, in itself, isn't evil
 - Dirt's not covered with the filth of sin
 - But, we are
 - We're covered w/ sin ever since the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden every person who's walked the face of the earth's been sinful to the core
 - Except for one man...the God-man, JC
 - As God-in-flesh, JC was truly God & truly man
 - And as God, he wasn't marred by sin/tainted by sin/never had a sinful thought or action
 - And, he came as our representative to stand in our place as the holy God-man before God
 - And, he came to take all our sin away
 - And, when we confess and acknowledge that he died the death that we deserve to die for our sin & that he rose victorious over death, we're able to be in the presence of holy God for all eternity b/c Christ's lord purifies us
 - B/c of Jesus we won't be tainted by sin before God....but Uzzah was

- And, God dealt w/ Uzzah accordingly
- So, b/c of Uzzah's death, David didn't want to take the ark any further to Jerusalem...can't blame him
 - After first growing angry, David then properly came to fear the Lord
 - Which led David to put it in the house of Obed-edom
 - And the ark stayed there for 3 months where Obed-edom's household was blessed by the Lord greatly the entire time
 - Until David heard of it
 - He wanted the same blessing to come to the whole nation of Israel
- So, David properly brought the ark to Jerusalem
 - And, David worshiped the Lord in dancing
 - His praise and worship and adoration of God flowed out into leaping and dancing before the Lord
 - Which draws the ire of Michal, David's wife, who was Saul's daughter
 - But, it doesn't affect David b/c his dancing in worship was for the Lord alone
 - David's desire's to live for the Lord in all he does
 - And, this is played out in the next chapter

3) CHAPTER 7

- 7:1-17
- We see here that David wishes to build a temple to house the ark since it's in a tent
 - But, God gives the prophet Nathan a message for David that he's not to provide a home for the presence of the Lord
 - And, God's message to Nathan's that this idea's coming from David not from God himself
 - It was common the ancient world for kings to construct a temple to the main deity/god of their city
 - So, it wasn't unusual that King David would desire to build a temple to the Lord
 - But, God's response was that he was going to establish a house/dynasty for David
 - God's promise was that he was gonna make David's name famous
 - God promises that from David will come a dynasty of kings
 - God promises that one of his descendants will sit enthroned as king forever
- So, this is the Davidic Covenant
- We see God's fulfillment of God's promise in two ways
- First, we see that God promises the birth and work of Solomon
 - David's son, Solomon, would eventually be raised up as a great king who would be the one to build a temple for the ark of the covenant
 - God would raise Solomon up even though he's the one who "commits iniquity" (v14)...he was sinful like the rest of us
 - But, he's the immediate fulfillment of God's promise to David
- Secondly, and ultimately, we see the that God promises a king from the line of David who's rule and reign's eternal/lasts forever and ever
 - Ultimately, David's rule would end
 - Ultimately, Solomon's rule as king would end
 - But, God promises the eternal king to come from the line of David
 - And, in this, God's promising the Messiah
 - He promises Jesus
 - Jesus, who's lineage is traced from the family tree of David, he's the final heir to David's throne

- Hebrews 1:5 quotes v14 here in showing us the supremacy of Christ – “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”
 - We see the fulfillment of Christ in this promise here
- Psalm 89:1-4 – the Psalmist writes, “I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said ‘steadfast love will be build up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.’ You have said, ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations’.”
- Or, Luke 1:32-33 – the words of Gabriel to Mary, “He [Jesus] will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
- Jesus is our forever king!
 - He came just as God promised!
- God makes all these promises to David and he believes God...he trusts that God’s faithful to his promises
- 7:18-29
- King David responds in worship
 - And, he worships sovereign God for his mercy, grace, deliverance, and redemption
 - And, David commits himself to being God’s servant
 - Brothers & sisters, we have a good & sovereign God who’s worthy of all our worship, amen?
 - He’s faithful and true to his promises
 - He can be trusted
 - He’s given us Jesus to reign and rule over all things for all time
 - David listens to the word of God and he accepts it
 - He receives God’s word
 - He didn’t hesitate to receive it
 - He didn’t fight it
 - He received it
 - And, we have God’s Word – the Bible – which points us to the truth and the reality that Jesus is our forever king
 - God promised that the Savior of the world/the Messiah/the snake-crusher would come into the world...at the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis 3:15
 - God promised us this in the Bible and it’s true...Jesus came to crush sin and the enemy
 - God promised us a Savior...let’s receive the truth of God in the Bible and receive it
 - Brothers & sisters, let’s cling to this truth every day as we battle remaining sin in our lives
 - Sometimes that’s one of the hardest things for us, if we’re honest...knowing that Jesus forgives us of our sin can be difficult sometimes
 - We can easily fall into the habit of thinking we need to compensate for our sin
 - Or, we find it hard to believe that Jesus could forgive “that” sin
 - But, he did...and he does
 - Believe it...ask the HS to help you believe it
 - Friends, if you’re here and you don’t yet know Jesus as your Savior & Lord – if you’ve not yet believed and embraced the truth of Scripture that Jesus takes all your bad away...all your bad thoughts, words, and actions – please believe it
 - God can be trusted

- Even though you might not feel as though you can trust the people around you, you can trust God and that he always fulfills his promises...always
- Please trust in the truth of his Bible which shows us that each one of us can be living new lives – now and for all eternity – when we believe that we’re sinners saved by Jesus
- Whatever it is you may have done, Jesus forgives you
 - We’re all sinful people who’ve done some pretty bad things...but that’s who Jesus came for...us
- God’s promised us this in the Bible...and he’s faithful and true to his word
 - Which is what King David expresses at the end of chapter 7...which is before we see God’s blessings on David in the next chapter

4) CHAPTER 8

- In chapter 8 we see God’s hand on David in giving him victory over Israel’s enemies
 - v12 & 14 show us that God gave David victory over the Edomites, the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, the Amalekites, and Hadadezer
 - Just as we see in Scripture that one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord...that he reigns and rules over all

5) CHAPTER 9

- Then in chapter 9 David shows that he’s not seeking to obliterate Saul’s family or that he’s carrying out vengeance upon them
 - Instead, it’s a chapter that shows David’s care and compassion and protection and kindness for Mephibosheth, who’s Jonathan’s son/Saul’s grandson
 - It’s a passage that continues to show us that David is God’s chosen king
 - God placed him on the throne
 - And, this passage confirms God’s promise that David’s to rule as king of Israel...not one from Saul’s line
 - But, that David and his offspring are to rule...and ultimately that Jesus would rule forever as king of all
 - And, it’s also a passage that gives us a picture of God’s grace to us
 - God gives us salvation and forgiveness that we’re not deserving of
 - Out of his kindness and love, he gives us his grace...which he promises us in his Word

6) CONCLUSION

- Do you believe the promises of God?
 - Do you trust God to be faithful to his Word?
 - Well, he is
 - He sent JC to save & redeem just as he said
 - He gave us JC – our forever king
 - And, there’s no better time to surrender to Jesus and let him guide your life/be Lord of your life than now