

# Topics in I, II, and III John

## God's Gracious Promise

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### Introduction:

The apostle John said, "*And this is the promise which he promised us, even the life eternal*" (I Jn. 2:25). God's promise of eternal life, otherwise known as salvation, has a long history. The first created man and woman (Adam and Eve) were given hope and so all men now share in this promise (Gen. 3:14-15). This lesson shall examine the history of God's promise. Secondly we shall focus on what that promise means to mankind today. Thirdly, we shall discuss what one must do to be a recipient of God's gracious promise and lastly we will draw some conclusions to the study.

### I. The History of God's promise of salvation to mankind

- A. When God created the first man Adam, He gave him a law to live by (Gen. 2:15-17).
- B. Adam transgressed the law of God and thereby lost his fellowship with the Lord (I Jn. 3:4; 1:5-7).
- C. The loss of fellowship was termed "*death*" (Gen. 2:17). Adam died in two ways that day as do we today because of sin:
  - 1. Adam died spiritually (Rom. 5:12-19).
  - 2. Adam began to die physically (I Cor. 15:20-22).
- D. Though man sinned from the beginning, God gave the first man and woman hope in the "*seed*" promise (Gen. 3:14-15).
  - 1. The "*seed*" promise came through Abraham (Gen. 12:1-4).
  - 2. The "*seed*" promise would not leave the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:9-10). The word "Shiloh" is a name meaning "place of rest" or "till rest comes."
    - a. Judah took the first place among the tribes when they marched and camped (Numb. 2:2, 3; 7:12; 10:14).
    - b. Balaam's prophecy to Balak (Numb. 23:24; 24:9, 17).
    - c. A sign of future supremacy of Judah is seen in their opening the attacks against the Canaanites (Judg. 1:1ff) and the unruly Benjaminites (Judg. 20:18).
    - d. The first judge and deliverer was Othniel (Judges 3:9) of Judah.
    - e. Judah became the ruling tribe through King David (I Chron. 5:2).
    - f. David proved to have the courage, strength, and spirit of the Lion by subduing all Jehovah's enemies and giving the people rest from their enemies
    - g. God promised that His eternal Kingdom would be established through the seed of David (II Sam. 7:12ff).
    - h. The prophets foretold of the establishment of Shiloh's everlasting Kingdom through the seed of David (Isa. 9:5-7; 11:1-12).
    - i. Dark days belong to the physical kingdom of David; however, new days awaited the coming of Shiloh to whom the scepter truly belonged (Ezek. 21:24-27). Though Judah stumbled in sin and fell, their vigor would be renewed in the coming King Shiloh (Jesus Christ) (Heb. 7:14).

- j. Jesus would be the Shiloh out of Judah to rule as King over Jehovah's eternal kingdom conquering all foes with the might of a lion (Rev. 5:5).
  - k. Peace would come, as the name Shiloh suggest, through the prince of peace even Jesus (Isa. 9:5-7; Eph. 2:14).
3. The apostle Paul clearly tells us that the promised seed to come was Jesus (Gal. 3:8, 16).
  4. Furthermore, the apostle Paul states, "*that upon the Gentiles might come the blessing of Abraham in Christ Jesus; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith*" (Gal. 3:14).
    - a. The blessing of Abraham was to be the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:22-26). This was God's "*promise of the Spirit.*"
    - b. Paul speaks of salvation through the seed of David by promise (Acts 13:22-39).
      - 1b. Notice the connection between the Word of God (Salvation) and God's promise of salvation (Acts 13:26).
      - 2b. God's divine revelation (gospel truths) reveal His promises and what one must do to be a recipient of said promises.
  5. The apostle Peter exposes man's sins and gives them God's remedy that is according to promise (Acts 2:38).

## II. What do God's promises mean to us today?

- A. The promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit (salvation through Jesus Christ) is available to mankind today through God's divine instructions (I Jn. 2:25). Those who accept, by obedience (Gen. 49:9-10), God's promise shall inherit the eternal kingdom of God as His children (I Jn. 5:13).
- B. Herein we see the problem of man (i.e., sin {Rom. 3:23; I Jn. 3:4}) and the consequences of said problem (physical and spiritual death {Rom. 6:23} and an eternity with the devil in hell {Rev. 21:10-15}).
- C. We too see the remedy of the above problem through Jesus Christ (Col. 1:12-14).
- D. Through these passages we find that eternity will be spent either in Heaven or Hell. A resurrection of the just and unjust shall occur (Jn. 5:28-29; Acts 24:15). All shall be raised and judged (I Cor. 15:20-23; I Thess. 4:13-18).
- E. Those who were obedient to Shiloh (Jesus) (Gen. 49:9-10) shall live in eternal peace. Those who are not obedient to Shiloh, the one with the courage, power, and might of a lion will be destroyed in Hell to live for ever in torment (Acts 3:22-23; Rev. 14:17-20).

## III. What must we do to avoid the wrath of God and the consequence of sin?

- A. Hear the gospel message of salvation (through Jesus) from the awful wrath of God (Rom. 10:17).
- B. Believe that message unto salvation (I Jn. 5:1).
- C. Repent of sinful living (Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30 etc.).
- D. Confess that Jesus indeed is the Christ (the promised Shiloh; i.e., Prince of Peace from the seed of David who came to this world to save us from our sins) (Rom. 10:9-10; I Jn. 4:3).
- E. Be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38) that you may have true fellowship with Jehovah God (I Jn. 1:5-7).

- F. Continue to live faithfully throughout your life (Heb. 4:11) repenting of your sins in humility before the Lord (I Jn. 1:9; 3:3).
- G. Tell others of the saving power of Christ that they need not suffer eternity in hell. Paul said, “*knowing therefore the fear* (or terror) *of the Lord, we persuade men...*” (II Cor. 5:11). God will one day take vengeance upon those who do not know him (II Thess. 1:8) through eternal fire (Jude 1:7).

### **Conclusion:**

Another grand topic in I John is the idea of God’s Gracious Promise. The promise is of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) and revealed through the scriptures (Acts 13:26) to be our eternal salvation through Jesus Christ (Acts 13:23). The OT scriptures foretold of the Lord’s coming from the dawn of creation and was fulfilled in one man of deity, Jesus (Gal. 3). God has created the world. God has allowed man to have a free choice (Heb. 11:24-25). God is light and in Him is no darkness of sin (I Jn. 1:5). Heaven is a place of no sin (Rev. 21:27). Hell is a place for the defiled of all ages (Rev. 20:10-15). Here is the ultimate choice man must now make. Choose the cares of this world and reject God and his promises or choose to live obedient to the Lord. Eternity is at stake. Pain and anguish verses eternal peace and joy are at stake. Where will you spend YOUR eternity?