Here are just a few of the promises that God has made:

Promises of God in the Old Testament.

God promised to bless Abraham and, through his descendants, the whole world (<u>Genesis 12:2–3</u>). This promise, called the <u>Abrahamic Covenant</u>, pointed to the coming Messiah for whom Abraham looked (<u>John 8:56</u>).

God promised Israel to be their God and make them His people (<u>Leviticus 26:12–13</u>). Old Testament history is teeming with examples of God fulfilling this promise.

God promised that if we search for Him we will find Him (<u>Deuteronomy 4:29</u>). He is not playing hard-to-get. "Our God is near us whenever we pray to him" (<u>Deuteronomy 4:7</u>).

God promised protection for His children (<u>Psalm 121</u>). He was the vigilant watchman over all Israel.

God promised that His love will never fail (1 Chronicles 16:34). He is faithful in every way.

God promised Israel that their sin could be forgiven, their prosperity restored, and their nation healed (2 Chronicles 7:14). Repentance opened the road to fellowship and blessing.

God, under the terms of the <u>Mosaic Covenant</u>, promised prosperity to Israel for obedience and destruction for disobedience (<u>Deuteronomy 30:15–18</u>). Unfortunately, Israel eventually chose to disobey, and the nation was destroyed by Assyria and Babylon.

God promised blessing for all who will delight themselves in His Word (<u>Psalm 1:1–3</u>). Simple faith has its rewards.

Promises of God in the New Testament.

God promised salvation to all who believe in His Son (Romans 1:16–17). There is no greater blessing than the free gift of God's salvation.

God promised that all things will work out for good for His children (Romans 8:28). This is the broader picture that keeps us from being dismayed by present circumstances.

God promised comfort in our trials (<u>2 Corinthians 1:3–4</u>). He has a plan, and one day we will be able to share the comfort we receive.

God promised new life in Christ (<u>2 Corinthians 5:17</u>). Salvation is the beginning of a brand-new existence.

God promised every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Whereas, in the Old

Testament, Israel had the promise of physical blessing, the church today has been promised spiritual blessings "in the heavenly realms." Our inheritance is reserved for us (1 Peter 1:4).

God promised to finish the work He started in us (<u>Philippians 1:6</u>). God does nothing in half measures. He started the work in us, and He will be sure to complete it.

God promised peace when we pray (<u>Philippians 4:6–7</u>). His peace is protection. It will "guard your hearts and your minds in Christ."

God promised to supply our needs (<u>Matthew 6:33</u>; <u>Philippians 4:19</u>). Not that we get everything we *want*, but our *needs* will be taken care of. We are more valuable than the birds, and our Heavenly Father feeds them (<u>Matthew 6:26</u>).

Jesus' promises in the Gospels.

Jesus promised rest (Matthew 11:28–30). Burdens are lifted at Calvary.

Jesus promised <u>abundant life</u> to those who follow Him (<u>John 10:10</u>). Following Jesus brings us more spiritual fulfillment than we could have anticipated. We leave boring behind.

Jesus promised eternal life to those who trust Him (<u>John 4:14</u>). The Good Shepherd also promised to hold us securely: "No one will snatch them out of my hand" (<u>John 10:28</u>).

Jesus promised His disciples power from on high (<u>Acts 1:8</u>). In this power, they "turned the world upside down" (<u>Acts 17:6, ESV</u>).

Jesus promised that He will return for us (<u>John 14:2–3</u>). From then on, we will be with Him always.

## Questions to Ponder

- 1. Are we pushing the text too far to say that God's resources in Christ are sufficient for all of life and godliness? Discuss.
- 2. What promises of God are most precious to you?