

THE IMPLIED PROMISE

Psalm 105:19 (NASB95)

¹⁹ **Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.**

- I. There is always a concern when reading Scripture whether a passage really applies to you.
 - A. Some will say it was applicable to those who lived during the time of the Old Testament, so it has no relevance to New Testament theology.
 - B. Others will say that New Testament “teachings” were subject to the philosophical suppositions of Roman and Greek culture, the conflicting belief systems of the Jews and Gentiles, and the questionable existence of a hero, named Jesus, who allegedly was resurrected after his crucifixion and resides and presides in a place called “Heaven.”
 - C. Still others believe that Christianity only has value to those who have accepted their shortcomings as evidence of the existence of a “higher power,” protects and directs, but who cannot be seen or touched.
- II. Because the mind has been allowed to take authority *over* the Spirit, we are inclined to find out what God *specifically* said about our circumstances and our future.
 - A. We look for things that happen and try to find a specific Biblical passage that justifies a behavior.
 1. If we want to justify drinking liquor, we turn to: 1 Timothy 5:23 (NASB95)

²³ No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.
 2. If it is our desire to focus our attention on money and clothes, we might turn to: II Kings 5:26 (NASB95)

²⁶ “Then he said to him, “Did not my heart go *with you*, when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to receive money and to receive clothes and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and male and female servants?”
 3. In a marriage where the relationship is “shaky,” the wife may not want to receive the Scripture in 1 Peter 3:1 (NASB95)

¹ In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives..”

4. By the same token, the husband may not want to hear **1 Peter 3:7 (NASB95)**

⁷You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."

B. There is enough specificity in these Scriptures that it should be easy for a "super saint" to find personal application.

C. Yet, there are passages that can leave us asking the question: "Does this passage apply to me?"

III. Such was the case with Job in the Old Testament, because any reader of his narrative could cause the greatest of scholars to wonder why those terrible things happened to him? Any student of Christianity might ask why Stephen became a slain martyr for the cause of Christ. Others would ask why Jesus had to hang on an old rugged cross, suffer the shame of his people, or be buried in a borrowed tomb.

A. While the evidence of their divinely orchestrated purpose could not be seen and the revelation of God's Presence through it all was not apparent, there was **an implied promise** from which there could be no departure.

B. In this text from Psalm, there is the reference to the life of Joseph and how the fulfillment of **God's Promise had a set time to be realized.**

1. Joseph was resented, hated, and despised by his brothers because he had a dream of authority.

2. He was released from a pit where he should have died only to be sold into slavery in Egypt.

3. After rising to prominence, he was imprisoned because of false accusations at the highest level.

C. Forgotten by folk he had helped behind bars, he almost lost his life.

1. Any of the circumstances that surrounded him could have caused his death.*

2. Except for Spirit over mind, Joseph could have justified giving up.*

3. If Joseph had listened and depended on people close to him, all of his dreams would have become nightmares.*

- IV. Joseph's salvation was in "The Implied Promises" of God.
- A. The Implied Promises of God Assumes that You have non-wavering Faith in Him.**
 - B.** God does not always announce to you what He is doing in your life.
 - C.** God has not said anything new regarding your situation.
 - D.** If your situation does not change immediately, it is because God is not through with you, yet.