



5 Reasons to Praise God

Calvary Portsmouth 2020 Christmas Studies

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- 1. Blessed be the Lord – your deliver
– Exodus 18:10
- 2. Blessed be the Lord which has not left thee without a kinsman
– Ruth 4:14
- 3. Blessed be the Lord which sent thee to meet me
– 1 Sam 25:32
- 4. He gives & takes away - Blessed be the Lord
– Job 1:21
- 5. Blessed be the Lord for he has heard
– Psalm 28:6

The Promises of God

The tap root, out of which sprouts all the weeds of sin, is the tap root of unbelief in the promises of God.

When you trust, or believe in a promise of God, you glorify God.

In fact, trusting somebody's promise is the most fundamental honour you can do that person

The Promises of God

The reverse is also true:

The greatest contempt that you can bring down upon a person, is to say to them, 'I can't trust you'

So, when we don't trust a promise of God, we bring contempt upon Him, ... we give Him a vote of 'no confidence'

- John Piper

The Promises of God

- The source of the promises
- The certainty of the promises
- The purpose of the promises

The Promises of God

- The promises of God
 - Conditional Promises
 - Unconditional Promises
- ‘Promise’
 - to give an assurance of something to someone
 - to undertake to do something in the future

Blessed be the LORD #1

¹⁰ And Jethro said, Blessed be the Lord, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.

- The deliverance from Egypt is analogous to our deliverance from Sin
- This is our first and greatest reason to praise Him!
- We must keep this in perspective at all times!

The Promises of God

- What is the first promise in the Bible?

¹⁷ ...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:17

- Without this, the scene would not be set!
- On this promise hangs the character of God Himself!

Just *and* Merciful?

⁶ And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed,
The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious,
longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,
⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and
transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear
the guilty;

Exodus 34:6-7

- This dichotomy is the paradox of the Old Testament

Just *and* Merciful?

¹ Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalms 32:1

¹⁵ He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemns the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

Psalms 17:15

Just *and* Merciful?

⁸⁵ Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Psalm 85:10

- This was accomplished on the cross
- This seems to be the source of the idea behind mistletoe!

The Mistletoe

- *“That mistletoe bough in the Druidic superstition, which as we have seen was derived from Babylon, was a representation of the Messiah, ‘The man—the branch.’ The mistletoe was regarded as a divine branch—a branch that came from heaven and grew upon a tree that sprung out of the earth. Thus, by the engrafting of the celestial branch into the earthly tree, heaven and earth, that sin had severed, were joined together, and thus, the mistletoe bough became the token of divine reconciliation to man, the kiss being the well-known token of pardon and reconciliation”.*

The Mistletoe

- *“Whence could such an idea have come? May it not have come from Psalm 85:10-11?”*

10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Psalm 85:10-11

The Mistletoe

- *“Thus, the very customs of Christmas still existent cast surprising light at once on the revelations of grace made to all the earth, and the efforts made by Satan and his emissaries to materialise, carnalise, and degrade them”*
– Rev Alexander Hislop

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Exodus 18:10

- The deliverance is of the Lord!
- Your effort, desire or ability cannot add anything to the completed work of Christ

Blessed be the LORD #1

- *“You need to know this: your entrance into heaven does not depend on how well you live the Christian life. If that were true, there will be no hope for me or for you. We can't live the Christian life well enough to deserve heaven. Nobody can. Heaven does not depend on what you do for Christ but on what He has done for you. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.”*

– Colin S Smith

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– Job 1:21
- 5. Blessed be the Lord for he has heard
– Psalm 28:6

Blessed be the LORD #2

¹⁴ And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel

Ruth 4:14

- What did the kinsman do?
- His role was to purchase back that which was lost
- Naomi thought she had lost everything...
- She ended up regaining all she had lost and more!

Blessed be the LORD #2

²⁵ And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten,

Joel 2:25

- God's promise to Israel was one of restoration
- Whatever you may feel you have lost...
- Whatever opportunities you may have missed...
- Whatever regrets you may have...
- God is the God of healing & new beginnings

5 Reasons to Praise God

- 1. Blessed be the Lord – your deliver
– Exodus 18:10 – We are Delivered
- 2. Blessed be the Lord which has not left thee without a kinsman
– Ruth 4:14 – We Restored
- 3. Blessed be the Lord which sent thee to meet me
– 1 Sam 25:32
- 4. He gives & takes away - Blessed be the Lord
– Job 1:21
- 5. Blessed be the Lord for he has heard
– Psalm 28:6

Blessed be the LORD #3

³² And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me:

1 Sam 25:32

- Blessed be the Lord which sent thee to meet me – who keeps me from stupid mistakes!
- ...who cares enough about me to be involved in my every-day life

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The Paths of Righteousness

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:1-6

- *“The worn paths of righteousness”*
- The Lord has led many along these paths before us

Blessed be the LORD #3

¹³ God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;

1 Corinthians 10:13

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- 3. Blessed be the Lord which sent thee to meet me
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Blessed be the LORD #4

²⁰ Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,
²¹ *And said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord".*

Job 1:20-21

- He gives me the desires of my heart (Ps 37)
- He knows what is best
- *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him"* – Job 13:15

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 - We are in His arms
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Blessed be the LORD #5

⁶ Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.

Psalm 28:6

- He hears and knows
- He can sympathise
- He is with us throughout the journey

Don't Worry

“Suppose God is the God you know Him to be when you are nearest to Him, what an impertinence worry is! Let the attitude of the life be a continual “going out” in dependence upon God, and your life will have an ineffable charm about it which is a satisfaction to Jesus”

– Oswald Chambers,
My Utmost for His Highest,

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 - He is in control



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