Wilderness/Promise #5 Pastor Rick Baker

Nov. 28 2021

**“I will never leave you, nor forsake you”:**

*The promise intended to free us from every concern.*

(Deut. 31:1-8; Jos. 1:5,9; Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5)

Promises of God teach us who God is and what God does, but also what to believe and how to behave. *In other words, how you behave, based on a promise of God, determines whether or not you are in fact eligible to benefit from the promise.*

Why did God first make this promise? (Deut 31:1-8; Jos. 1:5,9)

*You need to be strong and courageous and not fearful or discouraged.*

Does God break His promise? (Deut 31: 15-17)

*If you choose alternate securities and substitute providers, you have forsaken God.*

Echoes of OT Theology in the NT

What mission (people) does Jesus promise to be with until the end of the age? (Matt. 28:18-20)

*Disciple-making/becoming, baptized/baptizing, teaching/obeying Christ’s commands...”And surely, I am with YOU (that kind), always, to the very end of the age.*

*You need to be strong and courageous, fully fearlessly engaged Great Commission people—an act of actual belief and behaviour that enjoys the perpetual presence of Almighty God.*

Beware of behaviour that negates the benefits and blessings of this promise (Heb 13:5)

*“God is not enough; He hasn’t given me enough!”*

* *Illicit sex is a fleeting thrill followed by a lifetime of grief*
* *Bondage to money, which is NEVER enough*

*The promise of God’s permanent presence stands for all of those who choose to be satisfied with God by refusing to trade Him and it in for fickle and fleeting substitutes. This promise breaks the bonds of these two very linked sins for all those who believe it.*

*You won’t be very successful at holding steadfastly to this promise without help. “It is not good for man to be alone.” (Heb. 3:12-13; 10:23-25).*

Promise: God won’t leave or forsake us. It is for us to receive and believe and the liberty to live!