

## **Guidelines for Determining Promises:**

**Promises inherently concern future actions and future events. God's entire essence is a promise, but that is not what we are seeking. His entire essence stands behind His promises. John 14:6**

**1. Begin with prayer. Confess sins. Ask for wisdom, clarity and discernment. Might as well as for retention. Heb 4:1; Jas 1:5**

**2. Determine who is speaking and who they are speaking to. (Who?) (must identify the pronouns which requires finding the antecedents) Jer 29:10-13**

"For thus says the Lord, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. 11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

**3. Determine if the statement is addressed to a general or specific audience. (all who, anyone who, whosoever...) Psa 145:18-20**

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. 20 The Lord keeps all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.

**A. This compilation is not looking for promises that are made to specific individuals.**

**B. We are looking primarily for promises that are applicable to the church, both now and as Christ's future Bride.**

**4. Determine the dispensation to which the promise applies.**

**A. All promises deal with future events.**

**B. Prophecies are therefore promises.**

**C. We will distinguish between promises for this dispensation and for future dispensations.**

**D. Some promises are transdispensational, meaning that they are for all timeframes of history.**

**5. Determine if the promise is Conditional or Unconditional.**

**A. Conditional promises are marked by "if...", "then..." and may be clearly stated or implied by the context. 1 Thes 4:14-17**

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord

- Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
- B. Unconditional promises are determined by emphatic God-breathed statements that He will do something, whether or not man complies with a condition. Rainbow.**
- C. Sometimes the promise is stated as a simple declaration of prophetic truth. And it shall come to pass...**
- 6. There are also promises of discipline for non-compliance with a given condition. John 3:36**  
"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
- 7. Applications to life are based on faith in the truth of the particular promise. This builds hope in the life of the Christian which leads to spiritual expressions of love. 1 Tim 1:5**  
But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
- 8. Pray for strength to comply with necessary conditions so that you may partake of the promises. Pray for wisdom to use them. Pray for recall during times of need. Eph 6:10-11**  
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
- 9. Format: State the category of promise to which the passage fits (some may fit in more than one). Then simply state the condition required (if any) to receive the promise. Finally, state the promise in the simplest terms possible.**

**Category: 1-7 below.**

**Condition: None or \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Promise: What God will do.**

**State reference and quote verse from New American Standard.**

**(If you are using a computer do not use the updated New American Standard NASU.)**

**Example:**

**Category: G**

**Condition: Take refuge in the Lord.**

**Promise: Better than trusting in man during times of stress.**

**Psa 118:8**

It is better to take refuge in the Lord, Than to trust in man.

**10. Categories: P-R-O-M-I-S-E**

**A. Preferential treatment. As compared to those who don't meet the stated criteria. Psa 118:8** It is better to take refuge in the Lord Than to trust in man.

**B. Rewards for eternity. Blessings not received until Resurrection. Heb 10:34-38**

For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. 38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

**C. Operational confirmation. Proof of doing the right thing. Php 4:9** The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**D. Millennial Kingdom. For the 1000 year reign of Christ. Isa 65:25** The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the Lord.

**E. Institutional Relationships. Promises concerning family, friends, church. Eph 6:2-3** HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

**F. Spiritual Growth. Evidence of maturity. John 15:5**

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

**G. Earthly blessing. Temporal rewards or discipline. 2 Cor 9:6-10** Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." 10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;