

# God's Promises

By Anna E. Drew

**W**HEREBY are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

These promises are made by one who is faithful (Deut. 7:9); One who will not alter the thing that goes from His lips (Psalm 89:34, 35); with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning; who is fully able to perform what He has promised.

If it is through these promises that we may become partakers of the divine nature, it is important that we know what they are.

Upon our faith in these, Peter tells us we are to build, that we may finally obtain that which is promised. We find that Peter and the other apostles, who had been taught by Jesus, based their hope upon the promises made unto the fathers—Abraham (Gen. 13:14, 15), Isaac (26:24), and Jacob (28:13)—which is that of an everlasting inheritance in the earth, and the coming of One in whom all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. We find the same promise renewed to David (2 Sam. 7:12-17), to which Peter referred in that powerful sermon on the day of Pentecost.

Paul tells us these worthy ones of old "all died . . . not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them." They died "in FAITH"—faith that God would fulfill all that He had promised. They suffered all things that they might obtain a better resurrection. They "received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

They looked forward to the promised Seed, but saw not the accomplishment; that was left for a future generation. And when Jesus was born at Bethlehem, the faithful ones of that age, who re-

joiced that they should now behold the fulfillment of the promises when He had grown to manhood, were doomed to disappointment when He was taken from them to the Father. But He left them the promise that He would return and fulfill all things. THEY also died in hope, and we, today, have the same promises and the conditions by which we may claim them clearly given to us.

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one; And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

Abraham believed God and the promises to him were made, not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith, and to those who are of the faith of Abraham the promise is sure—faith in the promised Seed, Christ, and in the blessings that shall come to the nations through Him. To be Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise, we must be Christ’s. To be Christ’s, we must put on Christ.

“Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:26, 27).

Our faith is imputed to us for righteousness, as it was to Abraham. (Rom. 4:22-25.) As he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of faith which he had, so baptism is a seal of our faith. (Col. 2:11, 12.) The “exceeding great and precious promises” are embodied in these made of God to the fathers. To claim them, there are conditions, and we can become partakers of the divine nature only in God’s appointed way. His plan is perfect, His commandments not grievous (1 John 5:3). Having believed His promises and sealed our faith, let us add those characteristics that will make our calling and election sure; not only be conquerors, but more than conquerors through Him that loved us, and obtain an abundant entrance into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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