

A photograph of an old, leather-bound book with gold lettering on the spine, resting on a stack of other books. The text "Book of Romans" is overlaid in white on the top left of the image.

Book of Romans

Lesson 29

“God’s promises”

Romans 9:1-9

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We’re going to look closely at those covenant promises that God made to the Jews today, and see exactly how trustworthy our Father is.

Read Genesis 8:1 and 8:15-22. Who remembered whom?

How did God take care of Noah?

What command did God give to Noah as he and his family and the animals left the ark?

What did Noah do after he got everyone (and *everything*) off the ark?

Who was God speaking to in verse 21? (I’m apparently not the only one who talks to myself...)

What covenant did He make?

Was it contingent upon any action or inaction on Noah’s part?

Has God kept this covenant?

God said “in His heart” that He would never again curse the ground because of man nor use a flood to destroy mankind. That covenant was shared with Noah in some manner (as we know that Scripture is divinely inspired), but the covenant *wasn’t* about Noah.

Read Genesis 12:1-4. Where did God tell Abram to go?

What promises did God make to Abram? (I count 7) I included verse 4 here so you can see what “comes next”.

What was Abraham’s connection with *all* the families of the earth?

In what descendant of Abraham did God bring forth a blessing for all the earth?

Did God ask or command Abram to do anything to earn these promises or to make them come true?

Did God keep these promises to Abraham? (Read Genesis 21:1-2.)

Read Deuteronomy 29:9-20, 30:15-18. What direction does Moses give the people in verse 9?

Why were the people gathered together that day?

What was God going to do? (Verse 13)

Why does Moses remind them of their slavery?

What warning does he give about taking the covenant seriously (verses 19-20)?

Was there something the people had to do for this covenant to be held true?

What did they have to do?

Was this covenant intact, or did a member of this covenant break it?

Was there a promise of eternal life in here at all?

Read Numbers 25:1-13. What did the people of Israel do that angered the Lord?

What did God tell Moses to have done?

In verse 6, we see a man who was trying to subvert God's command while the people of Israel were mourning their sin. Who acted to save Israel from God's wrath? What did he do?

How many people practiced this idolatry and were killed because of it?

What did God tell Moses that Phinehas had done?

What did God extend to Phinehas because of this? Did God keep this covenant?

Notice: Phinehas had already acted when God made this covenant. This covenant was not contingent upon future behavior, but was a special blessing because of Phineas' heart to please God.

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16. What, at this point, had God *already* done for David?

God makes this covenant with David and promises him many things from verses 9-16. (There are at least 7, some repeated.) Verse 11-15 refers to a mortal descendant of David's. How do we know this?

Knowing that there is no longer a king in Israel, whom does verse 16 refer to?

Were any of these promises contingent on David's actions?

Did God keep His promises to David?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. (These verses are quoted in Hebrews 8.) What does God say He is bringing in the "coming days"?

What will this *not* be like?

What happened to that covenant? Where will this law be kept?

What does God say He will be to these heirs?

Why will people no longer teach others saying "Know the Lord"? (This "knowing" is a not just head knowledge, but an implication of relationship and fellowship.)

What two things does that last sentence in verse 34 say God will do?

Was that different than the old covenant?

Is any of this dependent on the people?

How do these examples make the point that Paul was striving to make (that God *does* keep His promises)?

Read Galatians 3:13-14. What did Christ redeem us from?

What covenant with Abraham was fulfilled in Christ? (Hint: re-read Genesis 12:3)

As you spend time today, digging into His word, thank God for His trustworthiness. Ask him to continue to show you, through His word, how He *does* keep His promises and how He does *not* contradict herself. Ask Him to show you what you are struggling to trust Him with today. Just as you prayed yesterday, ask Him to help you to trust Him fully today, and cast your cares and anxieties on the One who keeps His promises.