

Promise Keeper Reading Application Notes

– Isaiah 9 v1-7 –

Pete brought us a great message of God's promises on Sunday. His 4 main points about God's promise were that it is:

1. Surprising Promise
2. Fulfilled Promise
3. Ever Increasing Promise
4. Dependant Promise

A Surprising Promise - Q1. Can you think of a time when you have felt alone, in the dark not able to see the way through? How did God surprise you with his promise?

It may be that you are in a dark place at the moment. Take some time this week to think about God's promises. Sometimes they don't feel true but speaking them out and digging out the promises in the word of God can often help our hearts to refocus on the truth.

Here's that great quote from Alex Motyer:

"We have to decide what reading of our experiences we are going to live by. The darkness and distress are real but they are neither the only reality or the fundamental reality. In any given situation we can either sink into despair or rise to faith and hope. Isaiah insists that hope is part of the constitution of the here and now"

A Fulfilled Promise – Isaiah is pointing towards something that is going to happen 700 years in the future. That's a long time to wait!! Perhaps we are waiting for promises to be fulfilled – God doesn't let us down. The fulfilment of those promises will definitely be worth the wait!

Q2. In verse 6 we are given some of the names given to Jesus. Do you know Jesus in all these different ways? If you don't, then ask Him to help you accept Him for everything that He is.

- Wonderful Counsellor
- Mighty God
- Everlasting Father
- Prince of Peace

Ever Increasing Promise - How do you think of the ever increasing promise of a new heaven and new earth? Sometimes we live so fully in the here and now we forget what Jesus has promised us when this world has gone. This points back to Rob's preach last week of changing our horizons.

Q3. Do you keep heaven in your heart and the joy and hope that springs forth from this truth?

Pray for an increase in vision of this promise of your future. Pray that Jesus can change your perspective so that we are not investing ourselves in the things of this world but in the heavenly places.

Dependant Promise –

Pete pointed out that the Zeal of God talked about in verse 7 is like the red faced resolve of God! He is so determined to keeping these promises that NOTHING will stop Him! That means that there is NOTHING you can do to stop the fulfilment of the promises God has spoken over your life. – What a relief!! This isn't to say this gives us permission to do what we want but rather, we should look with more awe and reverence on our Almighty Saviour. **Ask God to help with this – we can't do it alone!**