

# Authorized to Make Promises

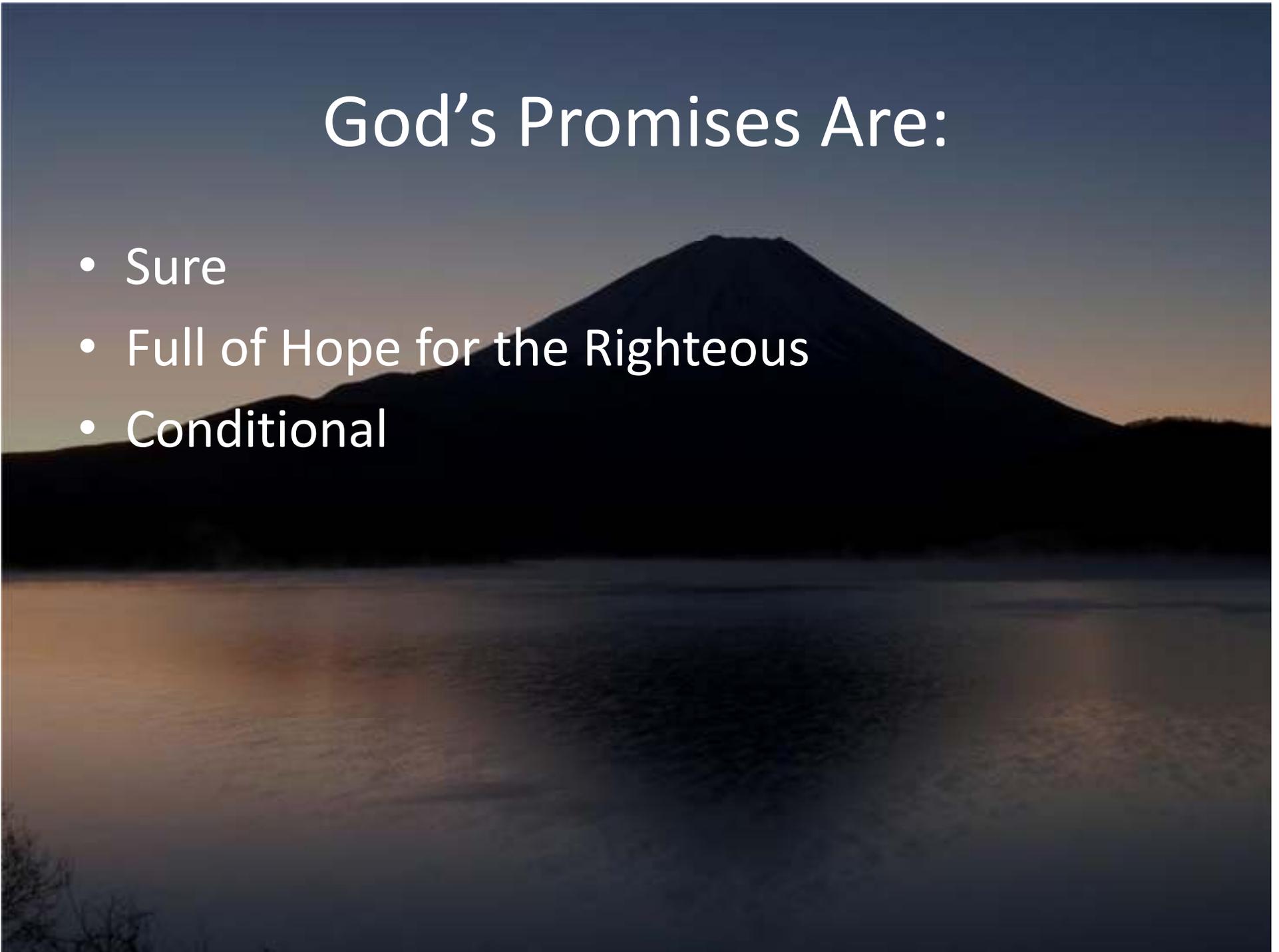
Acts 13:29-33

# What Constitutes A Genuine Promise?

- If there is to be a valid promise, there must be a fulfillment
- If there is to be a true fulfillment, there must be power
- If real power is exercised, it had to be authorized
- God has all authority; when He makes promises, we can be assured of their fulfillment
- Therefore, God must be behind a promise for it to be genuine

# God's Promises Are:

- Sure
- Full of Hope for the Righteous
- Conditional



## Acts 13:29-33

- “Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. 30 But God raised Him from the dead. 31 He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. 32 And we declare to you glad tidings--that promise which was made to the fathers. 33 God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You’”

# God's Promises Are Sure

- Sure - “Faithful, enduring, everlasting, without end, incapable of not being fulfilled”



# God's Promises Are Sure

- God cannot lie
  - Heb. 6:13-18 - “For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you. 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.”
  - Titus 1:2 - “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began”

# God's Promises Are Sure

- God has always kept His promises to men
  - Gen. 6:17-18 - “And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark-you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.”
  - Gen. 17:19 - “Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.”

# God's Promises Are Sure

- God has always kept His promises to men
  - Rom. 4:20-21 - “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

# God's Promises Are Sure

- God kept His promise of salvation through Jesus
  - Gen. 12:3 - “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
  - Gal. 4:4-5 - “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

# God's Promises Are Sure

- God kept his promise to Jesus
  - Psalm 16:10 - “For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”
  - Acts 2:31-32 - “He, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”
  - Rom. 6:5 - “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection”

# God's Promises Are Full Of Hope For The Righteous

- Our hope rests upon the promises of God
  - Heb. 6:18-19 - “that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil”

# God's Promises Are Full Of Hope For The Righteous

- Our hope is based on our faith in God
  - Heb. 11:1 - “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
- Faith comes by hearing the word of God
  - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

# God's Promises Are Full Of Hope For The Righteous

- Hope comes through hearing the promises that are in the word of God
  - John 8:32 - “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
  - Rom. 8:15-17 - “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

# God's Promises Are Full Of Hope For The Righteous

- He promises to take care of the faithful
  - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
- He promises abundant life to the faithful
  - John 10:10 - “...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

# God's Promises Are Full Of Hope For The Righteous

- He promises a glorious resurrected body
  - 1Cor. 15:51-52 - “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

# God's Promises Are Full Of Hope For The Righteous

- He promises that we shall be like Him
  - 1John 3:2 - “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”
- He promises eternal life
  - 1John 2:25 - “And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.”

# God's Promises Are Conditional

- Have always been conditional, and the condition has always been faith and obedience
  - Noah had to build the Ark
  - Abraham had to offer up Isaac
  - Moses had to appear before Pharaoh

# God's Promises Are Conditional

- Ex. 15:26 - "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."
- Lev. 26:3-4 - "If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, 4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."
- Deut. 30:10 - "if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

# God's Promises Are Conditional

- Are conditional for us today
  - John 8:31-32 - “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
  - John 15:10 - “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.”

# God's Promises Are Conditional

- Rom. 11:22 - “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness...”
- Col. 1:21-23 - “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard...”
- Heb. 3:14 - “For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end”

# God's Promises Are Conditional

- If we fail to meet God's conditions, another set of promises awaits.
  - 2Thes. 1:6-9 - “since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”

# God's Promises Are Conditional

- If we fail to meet God's conditions, another set of promises awaits.
  - Heb. 2:2-3 - “For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him”