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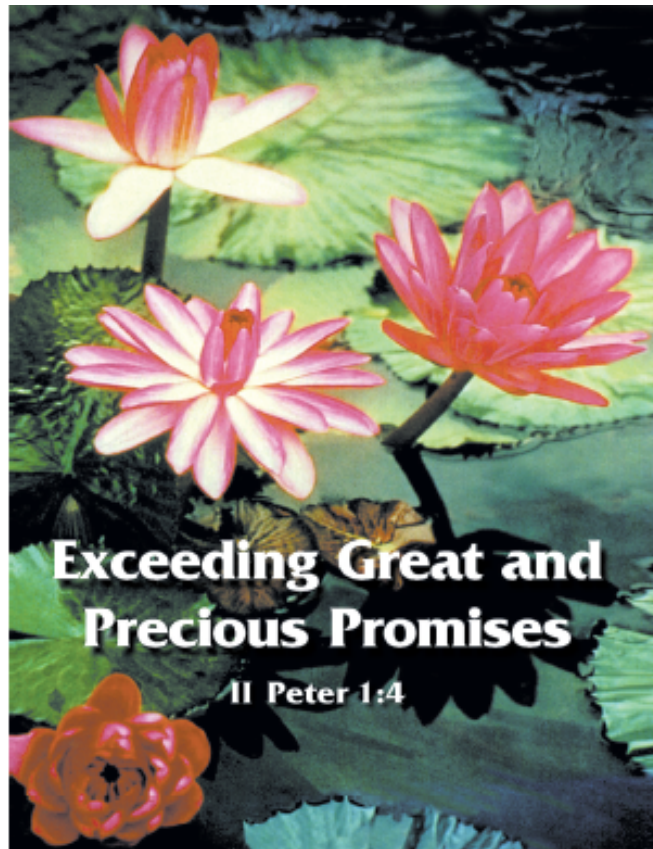
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"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4

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Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

II Peter 1:4



Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

The concept of making and keeping promises is one of the major themes in the Bible. Unlike fallen man, when God makes a promise there is never the possibility that it will fail, because to God a promise is sacred.

Among the myriad of promises that God has made throughout history there is one that epitomizes all that God stands for. This is called the "Abrahamic Promise." As the focal point of God's plans and purposes for mankind, it reveals the depth of God's loving and merciful character. It is an outline of God's desire to bless all the families of the earth. God said, "I will bless thee, and . . . I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gates of his enemies; And in thy seed shall ALL the nations of the earth be blessed." Genesis 22:17, 18

The Apostle Paul expounds on this promise as the foundation of Christian faith, "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:29

Jesus is the key to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Promise. His death provided the satisfaction of God's justice as the payment price for the sins of the world. Based on that payment God's promise will become a reality. With Jesus, faithful Christians who sacrifice with him are made fellow heirs to this promise and become part of the heavenly seed which will bless all the families of the earth. 2 Timothy 2:11, 12

Grasping the full import of this promise helps us understand why it is exceedingly great and precious. Jesus said there will be a time when all the dead will be brought back to life again. (John 5:28, 29) Imagine the joy this reuniting will create. The Bible depicts its fulfillment as the greatest social program the world will ever see, as Christ and his Church reign to bless everyone who has ever lived. Poverty, hunger and pain will be eliminated. Isaiah expressed it thus: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing." Isaiah 35:5, 6

Prophecy indicates that we are on the threshold of fulfillment of this promise to bless all the nations of the earth. Rejoice in the hope that God extends to us! "... His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22, 23

To learn more about God's loving plan and your part in it we encourage you to order a free copy of the book, *GOD'S GRAND PLAN OF THE AGES*. This study book of the Bible, topically arranged, provides answers which harmonize the Scriptures and illuminate the hope found therein. To receive a free copy of this excellent study aid, simply call, or fill out and mail the attached postcard (please add a postcard stamp). May the Lord bless your efforts to understand His loving plans.