

Episode #507 – How to Know God 8: Fulfilling the Promises

I. The “Knowing God in the Word Radio Program” is for the purpose of helping listeners to fulfill the greatest need we have as believers – to know God.

II. We have seen that getting to know God is our greatest need, and the way to enter into relationship with and to please God is through faith. What we need regarding faith is to believe the record God gave of His Son. We have studied the glorious reality that Jesus is the Christ, and that He is the Son of God, God in human form. Today we will consider further consider Jesus as the Christ, and why so many of the promises regarding the Christ have not yet been fulfilled.

III. Believing in the Son.

A. The Lord Jesus is the fulfillment of all God’s promises for resurrection and life. John 11:25.

B. John 11:27. Martha expressed her faith in the Lord. Some in her house at that time did not believe it. John 11:45-46.

C. Other disciples did not hesitate to confess their belief as well.

1. Peter. Matthew 16:16.

2. Andrew. John 1:41.

3. Philip. John 1:45.

4. Nathanael. John 1:49.

D. This faith increased during his three year ministry. Yet his arrest, trial, and death must have severely shaken this faith. He told them to expect this, but they did not listen. Matthew 16:21-22.

E. Their disappointment is obvious in two who met the Lord after His resurrection, but they did not know it was He. Luke 24:21-23 sums it up.

F. He made them put their problem into words, and now He presents the full solution. Luke 24:25-27. The Lord found Himself in the Old Testament!

G. The Pharisees feared the resurrection of Christ. Matthew 27:62-66. When it happened, they tried to explain it away. Matthew 28:11-15. But it was an undeniable event. Acts 1:3.

H. Many believed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The reason John wrote his gospel is so that you and I would believe it as well. John 20:30-31. Do we believe this?

IV. If Jesus was the Christ, what happened to all the promises?

A. Today, many intelligent Jews admit the historical facts about Jesus. They even admit He was a great teacher, but they refuse to acknowledge that He was the Messiah (the Christ) as 2000 years later He has not accomplished what the Messiah was supposed to do to redeem the sad conditions of sin and death on the earth!

B. Many ingenious explanations have been suggested in Christendom to explain this failure. They try to tell us we misunderstand the Old Testament prophecies of Divine government on earth, insisting the Bible was always talking about a “spiritual kingdom,” or of the reign of God in heaven. Others point to advances in human progress and say that this is the advance of the kingdom of God on earth.

C. Yet many believe that a day is coming when God will take the reins of government into His hands and fulfill every promise in the Old Testament. Yet they insist this must come about by the second coming of Jesus Christ! Yet they fail to see what a mixture of blessing and wrath this would bring on the earth. II Thessalonians 1:8,9. If

- this happened today, the overwhelming majority of mankind would be wiped out, akin to if all the nuclear weapons on earth were exploded at once. If the second coming takes place first, then all God's wonderful promises to the world, the nations, and Israel will never be fulfilled!
- D. I believe as firmly as anyone that Jesus Christ will come again. I come behind no one in believing in the second coming and His thousand year personal presence on earth. Yet I just as firmly believe He will remain at His place at the right hand of God until His enemies have been made His footstool. Psalm 110:1, quoted six times in the New Testament of Christ. He does not get the victory by returning to earth, but before that!
 - E. The submission of Christ's enemies will take place through a process of Divine government. I Corinthians 15:25. This government will be carried on from the great seat of government which is in heaven. Psalm 103:19.

VII. God's Present Purpose.

- A. The only idea that will stand the test of all Scripture is that God is now working to accomplish a purpose during which all His promises in regard to Messianic times are suspended and in abeyance. Yet what He is doing now is essential to the accomplishing of His great purpose in the day when He will establish His government over the earth.
- B. God's present purpose is to write into the history of His long dealings with mankind a complete record of the grace that is inherent in His character.
- C. This is being done by means of an administration or dispensation of grace in which every act of God is an act of love and favor to the undeserving. Ephesians 3:2. During all this time, His kingdom purposes are postponed and suspended.
- D. This explains God's long toleration of evil, and the seeming failure of Jesus of Nazareth to fulfill all the promises that centered in the Christ.
- E. We live in a time when, if God cannot act in grace, He will not act at all. His works presently are secret and untraceable. Ephesians 3:8. Yet the record of what He is now doing will someday be made available to selected men so that the entire world may know that He is indeed the God of every grace.
- F. In the kingdom of God to come, mankind will be infinitely richer in the knowledge of God because of the record He is now writing. His dispensation of grace is happening now. The understanding and appreciation of it are yet future.

VIII. The Day of Christ.

- A. The phrase "Messianic times" often found in Christian and Jewish theology expresses a Biblical truth. The New Testament name for these times is "the day of Christ." It is as Jesus said to the Jews in John 8:56.
- B. The "day" Abraham saw was a long period of time. It was the day of Messiah, the day of Christ, in which all nations and families of the earth will be blessed.
- C. Paul speaks of Messianic times and relates them to the *epiphaneia* of the Lord Jesus Christ. I Timothy 6:14, 15. This word means a favorable intervention, and is related to the assumption of Divine sovereignty by Jesus Christ. II Timothy 4:1.
- D. We who now believe look for that blessed expectation, the favorable intervention of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13.

IX. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. That is the undeniable truth of Scripture. He can and will fulfill all the promises regarding the Christ in the Bible. He will save all who believe in His name. The question for all of us is clear. Do we believe it?