

No word from God will ever fail

(Psalm 89:1-6 & Isaiah 9:6-7 & Luke 1:26-38)

08-Dec-19

G'Day Church Family

We'll be looking at all 3 Bible readings from - **Psalm 89**, then **Isaiah 9** and finally **Luke** chapter 1

There's an *outline* for you to *take notes* - if that helps you *concentrate*.

Let me ask *God* for His *help* and *guidance* first - let's *pray*...

Intro

[PowerPoint 1-Intro]

No word from God will ever fail [Older translation "For nothing is impossible with God"] - this is the **key verse** from Luke 1:37

What a **promise**?

Can people say that about us - No word from us will ever fail?

Probably not?

Why?

Because as we said last week - **we all sin** -and we **can't completely stop sinning**

So, we may mean to say the right thing - but it comes out **wrong**

Or we **make a promise** to someone - and we mean to keep it - but we **don't**

Or we may mean to tell the truth - but out pops a **lie** - followed quickly by **another lie**

We **cannot stop sinning** in some form or another

and we **can't fix our sin** - nor can **God ignore our sin**

So, **God** does something about **helping us with this sin problem** we all have

Why would He do that?

Simple - the answer - because of **God's love for us...**

God's Love (Psalm 89:1-2, 5-6)

Our OT reading - from **Psalm 89:1-6** [Turn there now] - tells us **what God's love is like**

Psalm 89 is basically a **love song** - and the author Ethan the Ezrahite - in v1 - is going to tell everyone how loving and faithful God is

[PowerPoint 2-Psalm 89]

See v2 - **God's love stands firm** forever

God's love is **rock solid** - a firm **rock foundation** to build our lives on

And **God's faithfulness is not like earthly faithfulness** - where people say they'll always be there for us and then let us down. No! **God's faithfulness** - is **Heavenly** not earthly - so we can be sure that God's faithfulness means **He will always be there for us.**

His **faithfulness** means He **doesn't want us to perish** in our sin -

His love and faithfulness are so strong and everlasting - that He **offers a way out of our sin**

Why would He do that?

Because as v6 says - **God is incomparable** - there's no one like Him - no one compares to the infinite - loving and faithful God

That's why God can say "**No Word from God will ever fail**" - and we can't say it about ourselves - because we're not God - we're not always loving and not always faithful - and we don't always keep our promises - and sometimes the words we say - our explanations, our plans, our intentions - are not always right - and they don't always turn out as we said or thought they would.

Throughout the Bible God is consistent and makes lots of promises

Here's 3 examples of His promises

God **promised Noah** he would **never flood the whole earth again** (Gen 9:11)

God **promised to bless Abraham** and **through one of Abraham's descendants to bless the whole world** (Gen 12:2-3)

God **promised to rescue** His people from **slavery in Egypt** (Exodus 3:7-10)

And **God consistently kept all these promises - and many more besides**

Now here in Psalm 89

God **promises to send a special someone...**

God's Promise (Psalm 89:3-4; Isaiah 9:6-7)

[PowerPoint 3-Promise of David]

See verses 3-4 of Psalm 89 - God makes a **covenant** (a formal agreement) with His chosen one - **King David** - and God promises that **David's family line will go on forever** - and his throne will be a **forever throne** - **someone will always be on David's throne** - **there will be a forever king**

On face value this promise may seem like it hasn't been fulfilled as here we are **3000** or so **years** after **King David** - and there is **no King of Israel** these days?

But remember - **No word from God will ever fail**

In our **2nd Bible reading Isaiah 9:6-7** - This promise from God to have a forever king is expanded on [Please turn to Isaiah 9:6-7 now]

[PowerPoint 4-Isaiah 9:6-7]

Isaiah's makes his **prophecy** around **700 BC**

Isaiah says in v6 - a **child** - a **son** will be born - and **no ordinary child** at that
 Next - we see - still in v6 - that the **government will be on this child's shoulders**. In the original Hebrew language this means that the rule and dominion of the whole world is on this child's shoulders - He is the **one true ruler of the world**. Forget about **United Nations** or **G20's** or **G8's** and the idea of a **world government** - we already have one ruler of the Earth - this child to be born - is King of Heaven and Earth
 Of course - as we'll see from our NT passage - this **child** is none other than **Jesus - the Son of God**

And then Isaiah - gives this child - Jesus - some **amazing names**

He will be called **Wonderful Counsellor** -

Some of you here today might have had counselling in your life - it may or may not have been helpful - and I'm not doubting the usefulness of counselling for some people

But Isaiah says Jesus is a wonderful counsellor -

The Hebrew here literally means - a wonder of a counsellor - it's the nearest word in Hebrew to 'supernatural' - so it means Jesus is a supernatural counsellor

His wisdom is not like human wisdom - His **wisdom** is way **higher than human wisdom**

We only have to read the **Gospels** - to see how **wise Jesus was** -

He **outsmarted the Pharisees and the teachers and experts of the Law** -

He **answered their questions** - with **his own questions** -

He taught people to go the **extra mile** - to **turn the other cheek** - to **forgive 70 x 7 times** - to **love your neighbour as yourself** - to **love your enemies** and **pray** for those who **persecute** you - he taught that there was **no greater love than laying down your life for your friends** - and went ahead and did it - to **prove it!**

The people marveled at his teaching -

Why? Because it was Heavenly teaching not earthly teaching - He said His kingdom was not of this world -

Where do we find this **supernatural counselling** of Jesus?

Simple - in His Word -

And **supernaturally through the Holy Spirit** - which makes **God's Word come alive** and have meaning in our lives?

What a wonderful counsellor Jesus is!

But how often do we rely on our own wisdom and experience instead of His?

All the time? Sometimes?

(pause)

The next name Isaiah gives Jesus is - **Mighty God** - **Mighty** can also mean strong and brave here - like any ruler should be - but no ruler or king that ever lived can really claim to be **God** (they might think they can) - but here Jesus is described as **God** -

This should put paid to any claims by people that Jesus was just a good bloke with great teaching - Here **Isaiah states clearly Jesus is fully God** - and His **might and strength** does not come as human's would expect by **military power** - but through the **power of His Word**

God's **Word** changes hearts and minds - it changed the persecutor **Saul** to the apostle **Paul** - it changed the **Roman Empire** which persecuted Christians to the Roman Empire that made **Christianity** its religion of choice!

Jesus the **Mighty God** - uses His Word as a double-edged sword - which penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; and it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Heb 4:12)

The next name Isaiah gives Jesus the name **Everlasting Father**

This gives us the encouragement to know that **Jesus' rule** of this Earth is **not temporary** - but **permanent** - **everlasting** - forever and ever - he's not going to be dethroned or succeeded -

Everlasting also means Jesus was there from the start - his human birth is not the start of Him - Jesus was **there at Creation**

And the term Father - speaks of his care and concern for His people. He cares for His people like any good father would care for his children

I hope you can see in these 2 verses how the **Holy Trinity** - **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** - **are working together** to achieve God's purposes

And Isaiah also calls Jesus - **the Prince of Peace** -

Prince makes him **royalty** - and **son of the Father King** in Heaven -

and **Peace** is the Hebrew word - **Shalom** - which gives the idea of **completeness, wholeness, healthiness, wellbeing and contentment** - It means much than our

English word peace -

And ultimately, we can only have all of this by being in a right relationship with God -

Jesus achieves that **peace between human beings and God** - because **Jesus** is the **light of the world** - and **calls people out of the darkness of their sin and into His glorious light**

He brings **inner peace to all who believe** in Him -

And Isaiah goes on to say Jesus kingdom and **His reign is forever** - and he establishes justice

[PowerPoint 5-Isaiah 9:7]

- **true justice** - not the justice we see each day on the news - where people are released from jail or out on bail - and kill someone. Or the justice - where people are jailed and falsely accused and are actually innocent?

And his rule is **full of righteousness** - in other words he is **totally right with God** all the time.

How many righteous world leaders do we have?

And how many forever kingdoms do we have on Earth?

Where's the Persian, Greek, Roman and British Empires now?

How is this prophecy possible?

See the end of v7 - **because of God's zeal**

Zeal?

God's enthusiasm and passion

What is God so enthusiastic and passionate about?

He's passionate about not wanting people to perish but come back to God and repent

God's zeal or passion is to **save people from the punishment of sin** - and save them for Heaven

And because **people can't save themselves** - **God steps into History**

Which brings to our final Bible passage

From Luke 1:26-38 [Please turn there now]

God's Fulfilment (Luke 1:26-37)

God's promise of a forever King takes place...

We pick up the story from v26

- **Elizabeth** - a **cousin** to **Mary** - is **6 months** into her **pregnancy**

[PowerPoint 6-Mary & Angel]

- Then **God sent** angel **Gabriel** to a **virgin** named **Mary** - to **tell Mary she will conceive a Son from God**
- The fact that **Mary is a virgin is very important** for 2 reasons

a. It **fulfils** another **prophecy** from Isaiah 7:14 - **Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel [God is with us]**

b. **Mary being a virgin** - means she is **pure** and hasn't had sexual intercourse - because the baby to be born will come from **God** - from the **Holy Spirit** - see v38.

The baby will not come from a human father

This is important because it means the baby **will not inherit** the original sin of the 1st man to sin [Adam]

As the Apostle Paul says - sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned – Rom 5:12

It's vital that **Jesus is sinless** - that's the only way He can be the **perfect sacrifice** for our sins

As 2 Cor 5:21 says - God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus becomes the **perfect sacrifice on the Cross** for our sins - As Paul says in Romans 5:19 - For just as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam] the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man [Jesus] the many will be made righteous.

Mary's part in all of this is to be chosen by God to be the vessel to carry the baby Jesus - and give birth to the Son of God

Without the virgin birth - we would not have anyone to fix our sins - and we would still be guilty of our sins - and would not be forgiven and would not have a ticket for Heaven

(pause)

- Just a couple of extra points about **Mary**
 - a. Although she is **highly favoured by God** as the angel tells her in v28 and v30 -

- b. **This does not mean she is somehow sinless** - like Jesus - Mary is an ordinary sinful human being like you and I - but God has chosen her to be the vessel to carry the baby Jesus - the Son of God
- c. **Mary can't save us from our sins** - only Jesus can
- d. **Mary is not to be worshipped** - as though equal to God or equal to Jesus - she is **not to be prayed to** - to help us - prayers should be directed to God alone, in the name of Jesus (John 14:13-14)

- Another fact is also presented to us in v32 - this baby will be given the **throne of King David** - and v33 it will be a **forever kingdom**
- Jesus is in **David's family line** - because Jesus' earthly family can be traced back **through** Jesus' earthly father, **Joseph**, through the family tree listed in **Matthew 1** - and through Jesus' mother, **Mary**, through the family tree listed in **Luke 3**
- Mentioning Jesus is from David's family line is important so that the **prophecy** from Psalm 89 and Isaiah 9 are both **fulfilled** - that the **king to be born will be from David's family line**
- And it's important because **even though** there is **no Earthly King of Israel** anymore - we have **King Jesus** - from **David's family** - who is **King of Heaven and Earth**
- How is all this possible? Because of v37 - **no word from God will ever fail**

Our Response (Luke 1:38)

How are we to respond to God's promise of a saviour and its fulfilment in the baby Jesus to be born?

[PowerPoint 7-v38]

Well - When Mary hears what the Angel says

Even though it's **amazing**

Even though she's **likely to be in her early teens and nervous about having a baby so young**

Even though she's going to have a **baby out of wedlock [without being married]** - which would be seen as a **great shame or scandal** in her cultural context

Even though **potentially Joseph might call off the wedding** when Mary tells him she's pregnant...

Look how Mary replies in v38

"I am the Lord's servant"

In other words - *'Even though I don't fully understand what's going on, I'm submitting to the Lord as my master - and whatever my Lord and Master says will happen - it will happen - and whatever my Lord and Master says I should do - I will do'*

I wonder if we are able to submit to the Lord like this? Handing our lives completely over to Him - and saying "I am the Lord's servant"?

Are we able to say that?

Do we trust God, His Word and His Promises enough to submit our lives to Him - in all things?

(pause)

Mary goes onto say to the angel- **May your word to me be fulfilled.**

It's like Mary's saying - **Amen** [so be it] to what Angel Gabriel says

Can we join Mary - and say - as we approach Christmas - "*whatever you want for my life - Lord - I say Amen to it - so be it, Lord God - I submit my life to you...?*"

Conclusion

To finish up then

One more thing to ponder on when you get home today

[PowerPoint 8 - Conclusion]

The Apostle Paul makes an incredibly bold claim about Jesus in 2 Cor 1:20

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so, through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Paul's saying all God's promises find fulfilment in Jesus - something for you to ponder on...

How can Paul say that?

Because **Scripture is all about Jesus** - from beginning to end [Luke 24:27)

And because no word from God will ever fail

Let's pray...