



# TAKE UP THY SWORD



A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

*For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)*

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## Promised Prosperity

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth... that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).*

As the old saying goes: a promise is a promise! However there's a great difference, and distance, between making a promise and keeping a promise. As Christians, we know that "God is not a man that he should lie" (Num 23:19); so if He makes a covenant with us according to His Word, then it cannot be broken unless we do not fulfill our part. Study all of the blessings for obedience which Moses outlined in the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter of Deuteronomy, ending with this last one in verses 12-13:

*The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.*

Paul told us that "he [God] is faithful that promised" (Heb 10:23), so why do we sometimes become impatient while waiting for the manifestation of His promises? Even if our measure of faith is only the size of a mustard seed, that would be enough to believe that our blessings are on the way or enough to propel us to move toward our blessings! Whenever we feel ourselves wavering "like a wave of the sea" (James 1:6), we can count on this:

*... There hath not failed one word of all His good promise... (1 Kings 8:56).*

We can always look to Abraham's example of faith which was summarized in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans. When I was unemployed for almost a year, I continued to pay my tithes simply because I believed the Word in Malachi 3:10-12. And since "the Lord is not slack concerning his promise" (2 Pet 3:9), all of my needs and desires were supplied! Jesus told us that we have a mansion up in heaven, so why not ask for one while we're still down here? How can our Father be glorified by a life/cycle of poverty and lack? Meditate on what David said:

*... Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant (Ps 35:27).*

God wants us to be blessed so that we can be a blessing! But He does require and expect us to be good stewards so He can say, "thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things" (Matt 25:21).

The Lord also warns us not to rely on riches because we "cannot serve God and mammon [money]" (Luke 16:13). We learned about the love of money in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of First Timothy, and this advice was also given:

*Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy (1 Tim 6:17).*

But what is meaning of "true riches" (Luke 16:11)? When we pray for and await the promise of prosperity and wealth, we must embrace more than just the tangible monetary gain. The Holy Spirit can lead us to receive the believer's total compensation package which includes:

*And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity... PEACE be unto all that thou hast (1 Sam 25:6).*

*... I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in HEALTH, even as thy soul prospereth (3 John 1:2).*

*... And prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him MERCY in the sight of this man... (Neh 1:11).*

We're all familiar with the life of King Solomon described in the first book of Kings. Because he had asked for discernment in judging the Israelites, the Lord blessed with much more: "a wise and an understanding heart" (3:12) as well as "riches and honour" (3:13). Chapter 4 stated that he was wiser than any man in the world, and chapter 5 showed how God caused his enemies to be at peace with him. The Queen of Sheba traveled from afar to see Solomon's fame first hand, and she took notice of the spirit of excellence surrounding him. And even though he "exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom" (10:23), he allowed his heart to turn away from God and therefore lost ten tribes from his kingdom.

In order to receive and maintain our promises, we must remember who gives us "power to get wealth" (Deut 8:18)!

**THUS SAITH THE LORD: "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Heb 10:36).**

**PRAYER:** *Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity (Ps 118:25).*

**"Be encouraged in the law of the Lord" (2 Chron 31:4):**

Leviticus 26:3-13; Job 36:11; Psalm 1:1-3, 112:1-3, 122:6; Proverbs 10:22, 13:22, 22:4; Ecclesiastes 5:19; Jeremiah 32:37-42; Matthew 6:24-34; 2 Corinthians 1:20

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