



Does God Break His Promises?
November 5, 2017
Numbers 25:10-13 & 1 Samuel 2:30-36

“Therefore the LORD the God of Israel declares: ‘I promised that your family and the family of your ancestor should go in and out before me forever’; but now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me; for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be treated with contempt’” (1 Samuel 2:30).

When we know the character of God as revealed in the Bible, that God is faithful, holy, honest, just, loving, merciful, and true, we also know that God does not need to state all the conditions that someone must meet to benefit fully from His promises. In the Old Testament, God revealed His moral law, which Jesus summed up as love for God and neighbor. If we do not know what love means in relation to God and others, we can look at the Ten Commandments. God obeys the moral law, and Jesus obeyed the law of God perfectly on earth. Because Phinehas honored God and His law before the Israelites, God promised that his descendants would go in and out before Him forever. Tragically, many years later, his descendants, Hophni and Phinehas, corrupted the worship of the LORD, including many of the priests who served under them and many of the women who came to serve the LORD at the tent of meeting that housed the ark of the covenant. By refusing to honor God and by unrepentantly persisting in their evil ways in the presence of all Israel, they became worthless priests and leaders. Therefore, to preserve the integrity of His Kingdom, God justly enforced His moral law and punished them. God has given us many precious promises, but none of His promises give people permission to practice evil and promote corruption.

Thinking Further

1. What difference did Phinehas make when he expressed his zeal for the holiness of the LORD?

2. What was one benefit for Phinehas when the LORD made a covenant of peace with him?

3. Did the LORD break his promise to Phinehas? Give a reason for your answer.

4. How did Eli experience and see distress in the dwelling of the LORD?

5. Name two faithful priests that fulfilled 1 Samuel 2:35.

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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