

Standing on the Promises

- Jeremy S. Jones

Have you ever been unsure about something? How many times have you either been told something or heard something that seemed too good to be true? And you thought to yourself, "no way!!" or "Could that really be?" But then life happens, situations change and those promises that seemed to go to be true really are just that, untrue. And we respond with "I knew it was too good to be true!!" Yet, as Christians, we have to stop and ask ourselves, "what did God say?"

When we look at 1 Kings 1, we see a situation very similar. Before we go to 1 Kings, we have to go back a minute to 2 Samuel. 2 Samuel 11 tells of David's sin with Bathsheba. As the story continues to unfold, we find out that she is with child and David to cover this up commits an even greater sin, he has Bathsheba's husband killed. The child dies and they eventually have another son, Solomon. In recompense to Bathsheba (for the loss of her husband and the baby), she makes David give his word that at the time of David's death Solomon would be the next king. Although, Solomon is at the last child to be born to David and not the 1st born, David makes a vow to Bathsheba that her son will be king. A promise, to be good true, is made.

This leads us to 1 Kings 1, David is dying and Adonijah (David's 3rd born, for the 1st two have already died) is setting himself up to be the king. Adonijah puts things into motion, including getting the support of some of the major political leaders, to be king. Most of Israel is now celebrating Adonijah as king. But, what about the promise made to Solomon, that he would be king when David died. A plan, although not mentioned is under way to get rid of Solomon, and he knows this. The promise made now seems to be worthless. What is Solomon to do?

David is informed of what is happening and he quickly makes Solomon king. In spite of Adonijah, God had another plan. We see this in Adonijah's speech to Bathsheba in Chapter 2:15 *"He said, 'You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel fully expected me to reign. However, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother's, for it was his from the LORD.'" Go back and read 1 Kings 1 - 2 for the details. Just as David made a promise to Bathsheba and made sure that it was fulfilled, Christ has done the same for us. He has made promises to us. Promises we can stand on.*

- **Life to the Fullest** - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.'" (Matthew 16:24-25)
- **Acceptance** - "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." (John 6:37)
- **Reward** - "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times

as much in this present age... But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” (Mark 10:29–31)

- **Revelation** - “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. My Father will love the one who loves me, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” (John 14:21)
- **Friendship** - “You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:14–15)
- **Real Joy and True Peace** - “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:9–11)
- **Test of Faith** - “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me,” Jesus said. (Matthew 5:10–11)

While this is only a small list, it is a list we can trust. So, no matter what happens in life we can (as the song says) stand on the promises on Christ.