



GOD'S PROMISES FROM
GENESIS TO REVELATION
CAN BE TRUSTED.

THE STORY OF FAITH

In the last three months, we have studied the stories of Grace, Deliverance, and Promise. In each of those stories, we have seen the faithfulness of God to His people during times of difficulty and opposition. God paved the way for the story of faith in each context.

This month we celebrate the hallmark of our faith as Christians. Easter is the culmination of all that God had in mind from the very beginning, providing His grace in Jesus Christ; deliverance from sin through Jesus Christ; fulfilling His eternal promise through Jesus Christ.

The faith of God's people did not begin with a baby born in Bethlehem or wait for the Lamb of God to be crucified on a cross. The faith of God's people was a reality from the beginning and in the darkest times of history. This month we will see God's people in exile in Babylon, having been taken captive from their homes in Jerusalem and Judah. They would spend 70 years in a foreign land, with foreign leaders, in the midst of a culture that worshiped foreign gods. Their circumstances were dark and hopeless, yet somehow they had faith.

A biblical definition of faith is found in the book of Hebrews:

HEBREWS 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

How do we have faith in what we cannot see and touch? How can we be confident in that which has not happened yet? These are questions that have been pondered for centuries, dating all the way back to the 6th century B.C. Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to wrestle with these questions as they lived in captivity. Jeremiah had to wrestle with these questions as he wrote to God's people in exile. Each of us has to wrestle with these questions in the context of our lives.

God's promises in His Word from Genesis to Revelation can be trusted. Look at the first stanza of the hymn, *How Firm a Foundation*, from 1787:

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

As we study God's Word during this Easter season, in the Spring of 2020, may we be reminded the crux of our Christian faith is our belief that the birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is what gives us everlasting life. This is THE story, His story, told from the very beginning through the end, in God's Word. It is a story of faith.

Join us for the next 4 weeks as we embrace the story of Faith.

- Apr 4/5 Faith in Suffering - Daniel 3
- Apr 11/12 Easter Weekend (No Bible Study classes)
- Apr 18/19 Faith in God's Sovereignty - Daniel 7
- Apr 25/26 Faith in Seeking Him - Jeremiah 29