

BIBLE 1101

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

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THE PROVIDENCE OF THE FAITHFUL CREATOR

As the faithful Creator, God reveals His faithfulness in His providential care for His creation. In an even greater dimension the Creator became our Saviour, reclaimed His fallen creation, and made us new creatures in Christ Jesus. So both in His **providence** and in His covenant of salvation, God shows Himself to be the faithful Creator and provider.

The providential care of the Creator. The fact of God's faithfulness in His care for His creation is attested to by Scripture and by innumerable witnesses. The Dordrecht Confession, Article I, says (in part), "Concerning God and the Creation of All Things":

In this one God, who "worketh all in all," we believe. Him we confess as the Creator of all things, visible and invisible; who in six days created and prepared "heaven and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein." And we further believe, that this God still governs and preserves the same, together with all his works, through his wisdom, his might, and the "word of his power."

Speaking of Christ, Paul said (Colossians 1:16-17): "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or



principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, by him all things consist [hold together]."

Christ not only made all things, but He also holds all things together. Concerning God's providential care for the believer, Paul wrote in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."



3.1

Think before you answer these questions. You may use your Bible.

Since God's Providence never fails, how may a believer benefit in the following difficult circumstances:

a. Living in a country without religious freedom?

b. The sudden loss of material possessions?

c. Being the subject of lies and slander through the jealousy of another?



- 3.2 Use a concordance to find the account of Joseph in Genesis, and from it show how God's providence prevails over the wickedness of man. _____
- _____
- _____
- 3.3 Read Acts, Chapter 2, and write in your own words what Peter said about God's providence prevailing over the wickedness of man. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The gracious covenants of the Creator. God could not be content that His fallen creation was lost; therefore, He promised man deliverance from sin and his lost condition. Hundreds of promises and covenants are recorded in Scripture, each with its own significance and purpose. Some of these are *conditional* promises in which God places man in the **position of responsibility and says, "I will do this, if you will do that."** However, some of these promises are *unconditional* and God says, "I will do it." When God makes this kind of a promise, all man can do is believe it.

God is faithful to all of His promises and covenants. He is true to His Word. What He said He would do, He does. Moses' statement to Israel concerning God's covenant faithfulness is recorded in Deuteronomy 7:6-10:

For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he

had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

God made another covenant with Israel. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. That this covenant was intended to include all believers is recorded in the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 10:16-17): "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

Jesus made this promise to us (John 5:24): "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Each Bible portion cited affirms to us that God's faithfulness extends to His covenants with believers.



State in brief form the substance of the covenant God made with each of these people. Indicate whether it was a conditional or unconditional covenant (if conditional state the condition), and show the outcome of each covenant.

- 3.4 Adam (Genesis 3:14-19)
- a. Covenant _____
- _____
- b. Conditional or Unconditional _____
- c. Outcome _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- 3.5 Noah (Genesis 8:20-9:17)
a. Covenant _____

b. Conditional or Unconditional _____
c. Outcome _____
- 3.6 Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
a. Covenant _____

b. Conditional or Unconditional _____
c. Outcome _____

- 3.7 Moses (Deuteronomy, Chapter 28)
a. Covenant _____

b. Conditional or Unconditional _____
c. Outcome _____

- 3.8 David (II Samuel 7:8-19)
a. Covenant _____

b. Conditional or Unconditional _____
c. Outcome _____



Memorize this verse.

- 3.9 Memorize I Peter 4:19.



THE MESSAGE OF THE FAITHFUL WITNESS

God has used many witnesses down through the ages, all of whom were in some degree unfaithful and incomplete. However, one Witness is faithful and complete. The writer of Hebrews describes this Witness (Hebrews 1:1-4):

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds: Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by

the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

God's faithful and true witness is Jesus Christ, God's Son, Who is God and Who faithfully reveals God to us. All that He reveals about God is true, and He reveals all the truth about God so that He could say (John 14:9), "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

The truthfulness of the witness. In John, Chapter 8, Jesus stated that His witness is true and defended His statement. Christ could be a true witness only if

He had perfect knowledge of God, which He did; only if He was very God of very God, which He is; or only if He perfectly obeyed the Father, which He did.



Read John, Chapter 8, carefully and write the statement Jesus made regarding the truthfulness of His witness as recorded in each of these verses. Write the statement and the rationale for each claim.

- 3.10 John 8:14 _____

- 3.11 John 8:16 _____

- 3.12 John 8:18 _____

- 3.13 John 8:26 _____

- 3.14 John 8:28 _____

- 3.15 John 8:31-32 _____

- 3.16 John 8:38 _____

- 3.17 John 8:40 _____

- 3.18 John 8:45-46 _____

- 3.19 John 8:55 _____

-

The completeness of the witness. The Bible teaches that Christ was true God as well as true man. He therefore is a complete and accurate witness to God the Father and to God's purposes for mankind. The Bible states this completeness in Colossians 1:19 and 2:9. "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell . . . For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily," and in Hebrews 1:13: "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person." These words describe

the mystery of the completeness of Christ's witness. John begins his Gospel (John 1:1, 9, 14, 18) by declaring "the Word was God," "He was the true Light," "we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth," and "No man hath seen God at anytime; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." Jesus also declared (John 10:30) "I and my Father are one."



Identify the aspect of oneness or sameness as it appears in each of these references from the Gospel of John.

- 3.20 John 5:23 _____
- 3.21 John 5:26 _____
- 3.22 John 8:19 _____
- 3.23 John 8:42 _____
- 3.24 John 14:9 _____
- 3.25 John 14:10 _____
- 3.26 John 14:11 _____
- 3.27 John 15:23 _____



Complete these activities.

- 3.28 The phrase "faithful witness" is used two times in the last of God's messages to us, Revelation 1:5 and 3:14. We know this phrase refers to Jesus Christ because of four concepts that are related to Him in these verses. What are three of these concepts?
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- 3.29 Memorize the following portion of Scripture from Revelation 1:4-5. "... Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth."



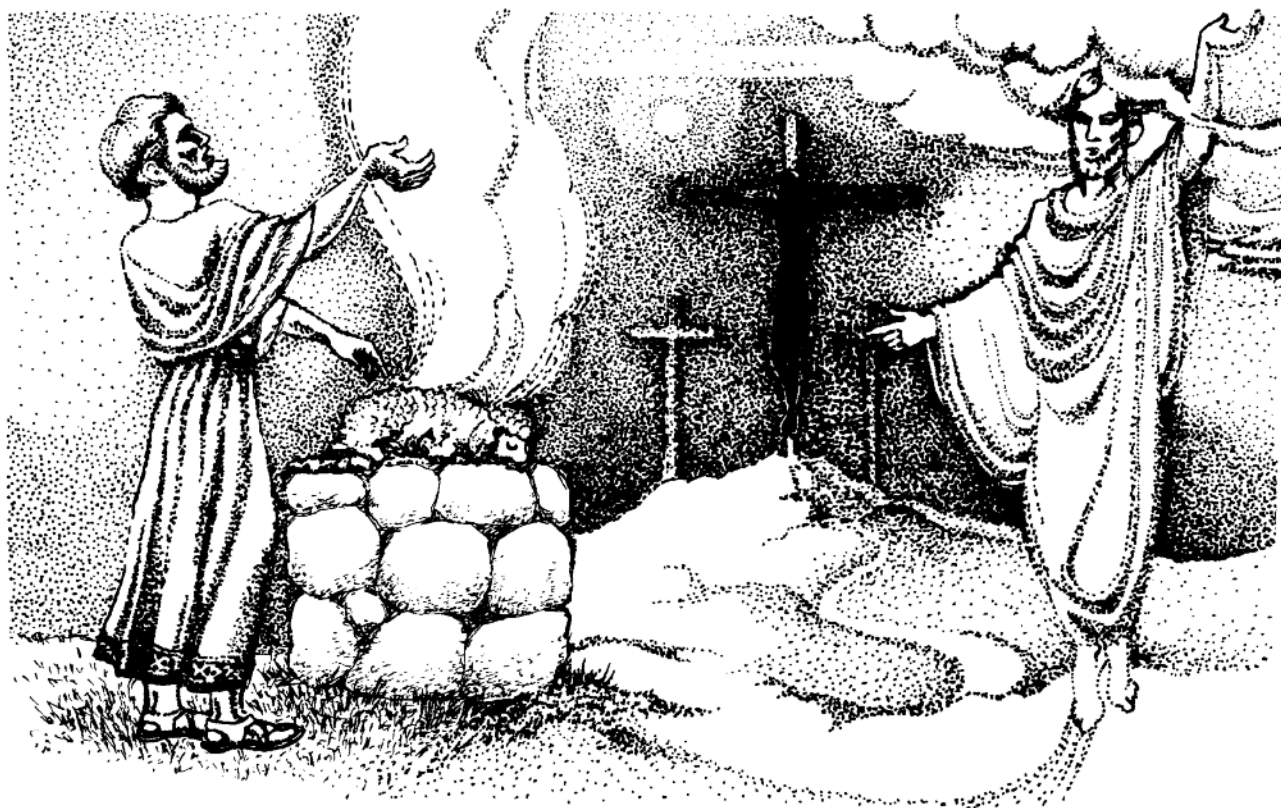
THE WORK OF THE FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST

One of the offices the Lord Jesus Christ filled was that of the High Priest. The New Testament book that teaches most thoroughly the priesthood of Christ is the Epistle to the Hebrews. Two of the points of the Epistle to the Hebrews are that Christ is a better High Priest than Aaron and, as the Lamb of God, was a better sacrifice than bulls and goats. In Hebrews 2:17 we read, "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

The high priestly work of Christ had an earthly and a heavenly aspect. Christ took on the form of a man, becoming like His brethren for the specific purpose of dying, of being offered up as a sacrifice, to giving His life a ransom for many, of being made

sin for us. He now lives in heaven to make **intercession** for us. These two concepts, the Priest offering a sacrifice for sin and the Priest making intercession for us, are basic to His faithfulness as a High Priest.

The offering of the High Priest. Read Hebrews 7:23-28. This passage in Hebrews is a summary of the work of Christ as faithful High Priest. Unlike Aaron in his priesthood, Christ was both the offerer and the offering. Unlike the old order which was imperfect, Christ was perfect, as both the sinless priest and the spotless lamb. By His perfection, Christ became the first and only sacrifice that was fully satisfactory for the removal of sin. The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin, but the blood of Christ has.



The Work of the Faithful High Priest

Hebrew 7:26-28 states:

For such an high priest became us [met our need], who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh of the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Three other very important passages in the Epistle to the Hebrews also point out the fact that the sacrifices and the priesthood under the old covenant were only patterns of the perfect sacrifice and priesthood of Christ. The old were figures, models, samples given by God to teach the Israelites the meaning of **atonement**. Christ was the completely perfect atonement (Hebrews 9:11-14; 9:23-26; and 10:11-12):

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered

in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others: For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering often times the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.