

# The Lord Fulfills His Word

Ezra 1:1-4

**Our God Is:**

## **1. Our God is a Promise-Keeping God!**

God doesn't need to make promises to humanity, but He does. We are not entitled, though we may think, or live, or even act like we are. We are not.

God does not owe us anything. He is the potter we are the clay. But He does make promises even though He doesn't have to. And in that do we not see how kind, gracious, and merciful He is?

## **The Promise of Exile**

Jeremiah 25:8-11

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, <sup>9</sup> behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the Lord, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, ...

<sup>11</sup> This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and ... shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

## **The Promise of Return**

Jeremiah 29:10-14

<sup>10</sup> "For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

## 2. Our God Works to Fulfill His promises.

The Lord is mighty to save. Israel, they will mess up again. They will fail, they will falter. But the Lord is at work in them. And He is at work in you and me. He is the Lord who moves, who pursues, who commits, who stirs up, who is faithful. We all would be helpless and hopeless if it were not for Him. So again, the Lord is committed to this word He spoke to His people through the mouth of Jeremiah and we all can read this and say thank you Father for your commitment.

## 3. Our God is Sovereign over the Fulfillment of His promises.

What does that mean? He can and will use whoever He pleases to bring about His promises and His purposes for His people.

Isn't it interesting who God uses to fulfill His word to His people? Nothing stands in His way when He is working His plan. Isn't it interesting that even Cyrus, the pagan Persian king, who's not part of God's chosen people, is aware, at least in part, of Who has established Him as king?

## Conclusion

The nation of Israel had this rich history of stories about their God and His provision and goodness to them. They were aware of His promises. But more than a few times, they lost sight of these promises. They lost sight of His goodness. They chased after other things and filled their lives and their affections with things of the world around them, rather than things of God. Doesn't sound too different from today, does it?

## Be Encouraged

We are reminded at the beginning of Ezra this morning, that we worship a God who keeps His word. For His sake, His glory, He stirs up, appoints, and orchestrates the fulfillment of His word. Even using people whose hearts are not His to fulfill His promises to His people. After all, He is sovereign over all.

Unlike us weak humans who fail and disappoint, God never will. He will keep His promises and fulfill His word to the nation of Israel, to us His church, and to the good work He has started in each you.

**He is faithful!**