

promises | *He has given us his precious and very great promises*

See If I Will Not Open the Windows of Heaven for You

Malachi 3:10b

October 2, 2022

Introduction: The Bible insists that there is a God and that God has given us “his precious and very great promises” (2 Peter 1:4). Throughout the ages followers of Jesus have found that to be true...and transformational. Religion is dead, buried deep beneath our broken promises. But Jesus lives, and because he lives, we also find life, not in our promises to God but in God’s promises to us. So, what are they? Exactly what does God promise you? Check your Bible, and commit them to memory. God never breaks his word. Count on it.

Prayer: Father God, your promises are a comfort to us when we are shaky and an encouragement to us when we are weary. Guide us as we open your word together to your truth and draw us closer to one another and to you. Amen.

Read: Malachi 3:5-15

Review: How did your thinking change about sin, guilt and shame?

Discussion:

1. What is God’s charge against the people?
2. God is asking for the people to test Him. What is the test? What is the promise? What are the conditions for the promise? What will be the effect beyond the borders of Israel?
3. We do not have the same system of government or tithes as the people of Israel had. What are similar systems in our culture? What would you consider to be equivalent today to the ‘whole tithe’ for which God asks?
4. Verses 13-15 list another charge God makes against the people. How have you seen this attitude in yourself and others? What charges would God bring against our culture?

Application: Think about how you test God. Is it like Exodus 17:1-7? Or is it like Malachi 3:10?

Prayer: Father give us the courage to be good stewards of all that you have given us, our time, our talents and our treasure. Amen.