

## SEEN THE PROMISES FROM FAR OFF....

So here we are on the last day of yet another year 2007. The last day and the first day of the year seem to be so important to most of us. Most of us might have been ardently praying that the Lord should give us a good and blessed Promise Verse for the year 2008. I don't want to throw cold water on your fire to seek for a new Promise Verse, but one should always know God's Word, forever settled in the heavens, is there for us everyday just as His new mercies. I also ask you not to twist God's Arm to fulfill His Promise Verse of the year 2007 before 11.59pm, 31.12.2007. God does not need to work under our time calendar. He works in ways which is best for Him. If it is best for Him, should it be any less for us!

Once again when I was thinking of Promise Verse tradition for the year end, year beginning, my mind slowly turned towards Abraham. In his land and time there was no Bible, no worshippers of the Almighty. He himself is from an idolatrous family. But he heard a voice commanding him to leave his native city and go to a place where God asked him to. And Abraham left when he was 75 years old. I wonder how many confirmations Abraham had. By and by fifteen years passed and again, the Lord appeared and covenanted His Promise. (Genesis 15). Again nothing seemed to happen, and Abraham waited. At one point his faith stumbled

and Ishmael resulted, but even then Abraham hoped and trusted the Lord's Promise. The Lord's Promise was not just that Abraham will get a child but also through this seed all the families of the world will be blessed. Now again at the age of 99, the Lord appeared to Abraham and said very clearly that He will bless Sarah and give a child through her.(17,16).

The most remarkable thing is that now yet again they trusted in the Lord's Word knowing fully well that it is impossible in a natural physical manner, since Sarah had attained menopause. That is why Paul wonders at the faith of Abraham that he still trusted God, even when everything was against natural hope. Who against hope, believed in hope. Romans 4,18.

Now the three angelic visitors come to Abraham and herald the coming of Issac. The skeptic smile of Sarah overflows into joy 10 months later when she held Issac to her heart.

And my, this Promise took almost TWENTY FIVE YEARS to come to pass. And mind you that is only part of the Promise. Remember what the writer of Hebrews wrote, *THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISES BUT HAVING SEEN THEM FAR OFF AND WERE PERSUADED OF THEM AND EMBRACED THEM AND CONFESSED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH. (12,13)*

I know though this is a wonderful verse many of us do not want to be reminded of this verse , just when we are praying fervently that the Lord fulfils His promise for the year 2007. But I am writing to everyone whose Promises are still not fulfilled, be encouraged in the Lord and just trust. Trust blindly when you can't see ahead. Let God have His own time in your life. When you give God time to make you, mold you, it will not be long that His very own face be reflected in your lives. Set your eyes on that City far away, a city without foundations and keep moving. Get up from your Ur and get going. Praise God if He has enabled you to buy a car, build a house, get a government job, but fall down and worship if He has not granted you any of the above. Fall down and worship if you are bereaved, if you have walked through dark tunnels of loneliness, if you have been betrayed , if your pain seems unending and your wound incurable, if you have been blindly rejected by your own on whom you had put all your hopes... Fall down and worship, embrace the Promises, keep on moving one step ahead, sow one more seed in tears, sing even when a sound doesn't stir in your voice box, mutter a word of thanks in excruciating pain. The One who called you is faithful, He will hold you, strengthen you to finish the race and there awaits a crown of righteousness for you and me. Our Promise Keeper is faithful.

The more the Lord delays His Promises in your life, the more He forms you, strengthens you and makes you fragrant for all those around you. Thank God for every blessing and pain. Thank God for every day, first and last of any year. Thank God that He ever allowed your heart to receive Him and love Him. Let us look to those eternal eyes and thrust forward faithfully.

*THEREFORE WE ALSO, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT AND THE SIN WHICH SO EASILY ENSNARES US, AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US, LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH, WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS DESPISING THE SHAME AND HAS SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD. HEBREWS 12,1-2*

It is my prayer that all of us would look only upward and be hooked by the look of our Saviour and to run the race that is set before us, not stranded in the sides but reach the reward reserved for us. God bless you all this year and hide you in the shadow of His hand.

Dear dear Lord, focus our eyes, strength, hope and desire in the unchangeable YOU Lord. Lord do not let anything separate us from the love of Christ. Create in us a desire to know you more, to love you more, to seek after your Presence. Help us to unburden our weights at your feet and take up your yoke, so that we may release those under the yoke of the evil one. Give us a year of fruitfulness

and deeper intimacy with you. Love you Lord. Hear our heart's cry. In  
Jesus Name. Amen.