

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD MANIFEST IN CHRIST'S WORK

"I HAVE LAID HELP UPON ONE THAT IS MIGHTY." Psalm 89:19(b)

Sermon to the servants of the Most High God, at Westboro Baptist Church, on January 19, 2025

We started this sermon series on the Faithfulness of God by speaking of the Bible's general description of it, and how it is manifest in the world generally. We had also started in describing the faithfulness of God in the fulfilment of what he has said of our Lord Jesus Christ, especially concerning the salvation of God's elect. Now we pick up about the fulfilment of his promises in connection to what God has said to our Lord Jesus Christ about the salvation of God's elect. And we will examine the faithfulness of God manifest in the person, office and works of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope to look closely at the faithfulness of God shown forth in the discharge of our Lord Jesus Christ of the trust which has been reposed in him. Christ has appeared to be faithful in the exercise of his offices, as Prophet, Priest, and King.

God's faithfulness is manifest in the performance of what he said to Christ, or promised him.

He promised he would help him, as man and mediator, in the great work of redemption and salvation. This help and strength Christ expected and believed he should have, and he had it. **"I have laid help upon one that is mighty."** (Psalm 89:19(b)).

Gill's commentary: "[T]his "mighty" One is the Messiah, the mighty God, the mighty Man, the mighty Mediator and Redeemer; who was mighty to save to the uttermost, and was every way fit for and equal to the work of a Redeemer; for which reason the Lord "laid help" upon him, not for himself; for this is not to be understood of help promised or given him as man and Mediator: this is after spoken of, #Ps 89:21, but for others; and so the Targum adds, "for my people": laying it on him is no other than ordering or enjoining him, to which he agreed, to help his people out of that miserable condition they were fallen into, through Adam's transgression, and their own sins, out of which they could not help themselves: the work assigned to Christ, and devolved on him in council and covenant, was to help them out of this estate by price and power; and to help them on in their way to heaven, through all difficulties, trials, and temptations; and to help them to heaven itself, and introduce them there: and being thus laid upon him, according to his Father's will and purpose, and with his own consent, it was found in him, and exercised by him, #Ho 13:9." [**Hosea 13:9**: "*O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.*"]

Psalm 89:21: **"With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him."**

Psalm 89:13: "Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand."

Psalm 80:17: "Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself."

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 42:1: "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."

Isaiah 42:4: "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law."

Isaiah 63:1: "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

Isaiah 63:5: "And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold; therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me."

Isaiah 50:7: "For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed."

Isaiah 50:9: "Behold, the Lord God will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? Lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up."

Isaiah 49:8: "Thus saith the Lord, in an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages."

That though he should die, and be laid in the grave and buried; yet he would raise him from the dead, and that on the third day; and which was accordingly done.

Psalm 16:10: "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Hosea 6:2: "After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight."

1 Corinthians 15:4: **“And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”** (Where in the scriptures? See for example these verses: Psalm 2:7, Psalm 16:10-11, Isaiah 53:10-12, Hosea 6:2, John 1:17, Matthew 12:40, Luke 24: 26 and 46, Acts 2:25-33, Acts 13:30-37, Acts 26:22, 23, and 1 Peter 1:11).

That when he had done his work, being delivered unto death for the sins of his people, and raised again for their justification, he should be glorified at his right hand, in his human nature; and accordingly, Christ having done his work, pleaded this promise, and it was fulfilled.

Psalm 110:1: **“The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”**

John 17:4-5: **“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”**

Philippians 2:9-11: **“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

That he should see his seed have a numerous offspring, which should continue to the end of the world.

Isaiah 53:10: **“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.”**

Psalm 89:4, 29, and 36: **“Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah. ... His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. ... His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.”**

Which has been accomplished in the numerous conversions both among Jews and Gentiles, in the first ages of Christianity; and which have continued, more or less, ever since; and will still more manifestly appear when the nation of the Jews shall be **“born at once,”** and the **“fulness of the Gentiles be brought in.”** (Isaiah 66:8; Romans 11:25).

The faithfulness of God is displayed in the person, office, and works of Christ. This, as all other divine perfections, is common to each person in the Godhead, and shines brilliantly in the Son of God, **"who is the brightness of [his Father's] glory,"** Hebrews 1:3. He has every perfection the Father has; so that he that has seen the Son has seen the Father (John 14:9 **"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"**); the same perfections being in the one as in the other. This faithfulness of God is to be seen in Christ as in a mirror; and an estimate may in some measure be taken, and judgment made of the faithfulness of God, by what appears in his Son, including in his role as a Mediator. **"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honor than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own, whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."** (Hebrews 3:1-6).

The faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ may be seen in the performance of his engagements. He engaged to be the Surety of his people; to stand in their place and stead; to do and suffer for them what should be required, and to take care of all their affairs and concerns for time and eternity. Accordingly, he is become the Surety of the better testament. (Hebrews 7:22: **"By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament."**) (See this sampling of verses for some practical explication of "surety": Genesis 43:9; Genesis 44:32, Proverbs 6:1-2, and Proverbs 20:16).

Our Lord Jesus Christ engaged to be the Savior and Redeemer of his people. He is often spoken of as such in the Old Testament; that is, as one who had engaged to work out their redemption and salvation; and which he has now obtained, and become the author of. Hebrews 5:9-10: **"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation until all them that obey him; called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec."** Hebrews 9:12: **"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."**

Our Lord Jesus Christ engaged to come into the world, in order to do this work, saying, **"Lo, I come"** (Psalm 40:7, Hebrews 10:7, 9); and he is come, and has done it. That he came into the world, and has done this for sinners, the chief of sinners, is a **"faithful saying"**; in which the faithfulness of God in his promises, and of Christ in his engagements, is abundantly displayed. (**"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."** 1 Timothy 1:15.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ engaged to come and fulfil the law, both its precepts and its penalty, and to become a sacrifice for sin; ceremonial sacrifices being insufficient. Psalm 40:6-8: **"Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."** He is accordingly become the fulfilling **"end of the law for righteousness to all that believe"** (Roman 10:4); and has offered himself, soul and body, without spot to God; **"a Sacrifice of a sweet smelling savour."** (Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 9:14). Whereby sin has been fully expiated and put away. (Hebrews 9:26). **"Wherefore when he cometh into the world.... Lo, I come to do thy will, O God...By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*."** Hebrews 10:5-10.

Our Lord Jesus Christ engaged to pay off the debts of his people, and by being their Surety (Hebrews 7:22 **"By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament."**), become responsible for them. He clears off all of their debts; which he has done to the uttermost farthing (Matthew 5:26: **"Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing."**), and blotted out the handwriting of ordinances against them (Isaiah 44:22: **"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee."**; Colossians 2:14: **"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."**).

In short, he engaged to feed the flock of God, to take the whole care and oversight of it. Zechariah 11:4: **"Thus sayeth the Lord my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter."** 11:7: **"And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock."** Isaiah 40:10-11: **"Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work**

before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young” Ezekiel 34:23: “And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.” Micah 5:4: “And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.” He does feed his flock like a shepherd, and has shown himself to be the good and faithful one, by laying down his life for the sheep. John 10:14-15: “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so I know the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.” And, he requires this job of feeding the sheep of his under shepherds, as you read in John 21:17: “He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, Lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus sayeth unto him, Feed my sheep.” 1 Peter 5:2-3: “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.” Peter had a lifetime of experience in feeding the flock of God between this live admonition from the Lord Jesus Christ and at the time he writes this to us in his first Epistle.

The faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ is seen in his discharge of the trust reposed in him, which is very large and great. The Father hath “**given all things into his hand.**” John 3:35: “**The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.**” All of his elect persons are to be kept, preserved, and saved by him; and so they are and shall be, even every one of them. These are whom Christ will present to his Father, and say, “**Behold, I, and the children which God hath given me**”; not one is lost. Hebrews 2:13. Christ is entrusted with a fullness of grace, to supply the wants of his people. It has been his Father’s pleasure, that it should dwell in him for their use; he has deposited it with him, to communicate it to them, as they need it; and he has been faithful to do it, in all ages and generations. See Colossians 1:19: “**For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell[.]**” His supplies of grace have been sufficient for every saint for every occasion. See 2 Corinthians 12:9: “**And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Mostly gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**” Strong’s gives this definition of “**sufficient**”: “To be possessed of unfailling strength.” (Other examples of the Bible’s testimony concerning the sufficiency of God’s grace are

here: 2 Corinthians 12:10, 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; Exodus 3:11-12, 4:10-15; Deuteronomy 33:25-27; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 43:2; Jeremiah 1:6-9; Mathew 10:19-20; Luke 21:15; 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Corinthians 15:10; Colossians 1:28-29; 1 Timothy 1:14; Hebrews 4:16, Psalm 8:2, Isaiah 35:3-4, Isaiah 40:29-31, Isaiah 41:13-16; Daniel 10:16-19; Ephesians 3:16; Colossians 1:11; Hebrews 11:34.)

He has been to all his churches, and to all his saints, in every period of time, "**A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon,**" Song of Solomon 4:15. (See also Psalm 36: 8, 9; Psalm 46:4; Jeremiah 2:13; Jeremiah 17:13; John 4:10; John 4:14; John 7:38; and Revelation 22:1). Saints both of the Old and New Testament, have "**all received of his fulness, and grace for grace,**" John 1:16. Grace upon grace; an abundance of it to the overflowing.

Eternal life and happiness is in his hands, and he has power to give it to as many as the Father has given him. John 17:2: "**As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.**" Our Lord Jesus Christ is faithful in the use of that power, and does give it to all his sheep, so that none of them shall ever perish. John 10:28: "**And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**" 1 John 5:11: "**And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**"

The glory of all the divine perfections, as concerned in the salvation of men, was entrusted with Christ; and he has been faithful "**in things pertaining to God,**" (Hebrews 5:1) as well as in making "**reconciliation for the sins of the people**"; and in doing the one he has taken care of the other. The glory of God is great in the salvation of men, even of his justice and holiness; as well as of his wisdom, power, faithfulness, grace, and mercy. Hebrews 2:13: "**And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.**" Psalm 20:5: "**We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.**" Psalm 85:10: "**Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**"

Christ has appeared to be faithful in the exercise of his offices, as Prophet, Priest, and King. In the exercise of his prophetic office; for which he was abundantly qualified including by lying in the bosom of his Father. John 1:18: "**No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.**" Thereby he became privy to his whole mind and will, which he has faithfully declared. All that our Lord Jesus Christ heard of the Father, all the words and

doctrines he gave him, as man, he made known to his disciples. In doing which, he sought not his own glory, but the glory of him that sent him; and therefore must be true and faithful, and no unrighteousness or unfaithfulness in him. John 7:16-18: **“Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.”** John 15:15: **“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”** John 17:8: **“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.”** Therefore he is justly entitled to be called the Amen, and faithful and true Witness, Revelation 3:14: **“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God”**.

In the exercise of his priestly office; in which he is faithful to him that appointed him; and rightly bears the character of a faithful high priest. Because he has offered up himself to make atonement for the sins of his people. As the Advocate for them, even Jesus Christ the righteous, faithful, and true. And, he takes perfect care, in all things, of the house of God, over which he is a priest. Hebrews 2:17: **“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.”** Hebrews 3:1-2: **“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.”** Hebrews 10:21-22: **“And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”** Hebrews 9:14: **“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?”** 1 John 2:1: **“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”**.

In the exercise of his kingly office; all whose administrations in it are just and true. Righteousness is the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. He is

properly called "**Faithful and True,**" since **"in righteousness he doth judge and make war."** Revelation 15:3: **"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."** Revelation 19:11: **"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."** Isaiah 11:4-5: **"But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins."**

The faithfulness of Christ is manifest in the fulfilment of his promises, which he made to his disciples; in at least the following specifics:

That he would not leave them comfortless, but come and see them; as he did, after his resurrection. He comforted them with his presence, and filled them with joy at the sight of him. John 14:18: **"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."** John 20:20: **"And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord."** Strong's on "glad": "To rejoice exceedingly."

That they should receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and therefore were bid to wait at Jerusalem for it, and where it was bestowed upon them, on the day of Pentecost, in a very large and extraordinary manner. Acts 1:4: **"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me."** Acts 2:4,33: **"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear."**

That he would be with them in the administration of his word and ordinances; and accordingly did go forth and work with them, confirming the word by signs following, Matthew 28:19-20: **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."** Mark 16:20: **"And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."**

He has promised his presence with his ministers and churches to the end of the world, and that even **"where two or three are gathered together in his name,"** he will be in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20. Matthew 28:20: **"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."** And he makes his word good, which the experience of his ministers and people in all ages confirms.

He has promised also to come again, and take his disciples and faithful followers to himself, that where he is they may be also. This was not only verified in his immediate disciples, but in his saints in all ages, whom, when they have served their generation according to the will of God, he comes and takes them to himself, by death. And **"to them that look for him, will he appear a second time, without sin, unto salvation"**. John 14:2-3: **"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."** Hebrews 9:28: **"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."**

Next time, the Lord willing, we will look at the faithfulness of Christ as it relates to his concern with the everlasting covenant of grace; and likely finish with God's faithfulness in the performance of his threatenings.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20-21.

I love you.