

Standing on the Promises of God Waiting on the Promises

1. We have looked at several promises in the Bible:
 - a. My words will never pass away
 - b. My loyal love endures forever
 - c. I am near to the brokenhearted
 - d. I am your Refuge and Strength
 - e. We looked at over 25 gifts God promises his people
 - f. I will give you Rest
 - g. I am the Lord your healer
 - h. I will never reject Jacob
 - i. It is better for you that I go
 - j. And the greatest promise of all – Because I live, you also will live
2. But what do we do when we do not receive what was promised?
 - a. Does this invalidate our faith?
 - b. Does this mean we do not have enough faith?
3. Hebrews 11 lists many people of faith and the great things their faith accomplished – yet it also lists those who, despite the same faith, “did not receive what was promised”
4. The Bible speaks of many ‘heroes of faith’ that did not receive what was promised
 - a. Joseph
 - b. Job
 - c. Habakkuk
 - d. Jeremiah
 - e. Paul
 - f. Jesus
5. What kept them from despairing or from losing faith?
 - a. They knew this life is not ‘Paradise’
 - b. They knew that life is filled with hardship – that struggles are a part of this life, regardless of one’s faith
 - c. They knew that God actually brings promises to fulfillment by means of struggle and suffering

- d. Our faith in the midst of faith-challenges is an encouragement to others who struggle
- e. Mostly – they trusted in the One who promised, and left the details and the timing up to Him

Thirteen Articles of Faith That every Jew should believe

The 12th-century Rabbi Moses ben (son of) Maimon, commonly known as Maimonides or ‘Rambam’ (‘R’abbi ‘M’oses ‘b’en ‘M’aimon) put together “13 Articles of Faith” that he believed every Jew ought to believe. Though no one person speaks for all Jews in regard to the faith, these beliefs have been widely accepted as a proper expression of the Jewish faith and they still appear in Jewish prayer books today.

1. God exists
2. God is one and unique
3. God is incorporeal
4. God is eternal
5. Prayer is to God only
6. The prophets spoke truth
7. Moses was the greatest of the prophets
8. The Written and Oral Torah were given to Moses
9. There will be no other Torah
10. God knows the thoughts and deeds of men
11. God will reward the good and punish the wicked
12. The Messiah will come
13. The dead will be resurrected

Though not authoritative or complete for Christians, they express tenets that we as Christians can find agreement with, except that we would replace ‘Torah’ with “the Old and New Testaments”, we list Jesus as the greatest prophet (and of course more than a prophet), and we believe He will come *again*. Still, their continued belief in the coming of the Messiah should inspire us to faith, who have His first coming to teach and encourage us. May God soon fulfill articles 11, 12, and 13.