

# A BROKEN PROMISE

By Keith Greer

The nation of Israel's history is well documented. To say that this nation was "unstable," would not be out of line. God's people had great difficulty in staying faithful to Him. Yet, God continued to give them time to repent, and to turn back to Him.

While up on Mount Sinai, receiving the Law, the children of Israel encouraged Aaron to make them "gods to go before them". God's wrath was upon them. Did He relent?

"Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin; but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written." {Exodus 32:31,32} Moses intercedes for them once more.

Joshua is about to die and has some parting words to give to the Israelites. "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." {Joshua 24:15} What is their choice?

"Now therefore, ' he said, 'put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel. And the people said to Joshua, The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!" {Joshua 24:23,24}

Please note, they promised to obey His voice. How long did it last? "When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;" {Judges 2:10,11}

For the next three hundred plus years they were up and down like a yo-yo. Faithful as long as the judge lived. When death took him, they would go back to their ungodly ways. What was their attitude during this time?

"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." {Judges 21:25} What of the promise they made? Forgotten!

In the days of Jeremiah it would even get worse. "To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; they have no delight in it. "{Jeremiah 6:10}

God's word had not become a reproach. No longer did they have the desire to hear it. Surely, they could not have forgotten all the promises that God had made and kept. God had always kept His word.

"Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed." {Joshua 23:14}

Solomon, the man of wisdom, wrote concerning the care one should take in making vows unto God. "When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed- Better not to vow than to vow and not pay." {Ecclesiastes 5:4,5}

God's people paid for their "**broken promises**." Israel and Judah were given over to captivity and destroyed; later the entire Jewish nation and their capital city would be destroyed by the Romans in the first century. Be sure we will pay for our broken promises. What did you promise when you put on Christ? Do you remember when you made the confession, allowing the Lord to be your Master and you his faithful servant in all things? Have you kept your word? \*\*\*