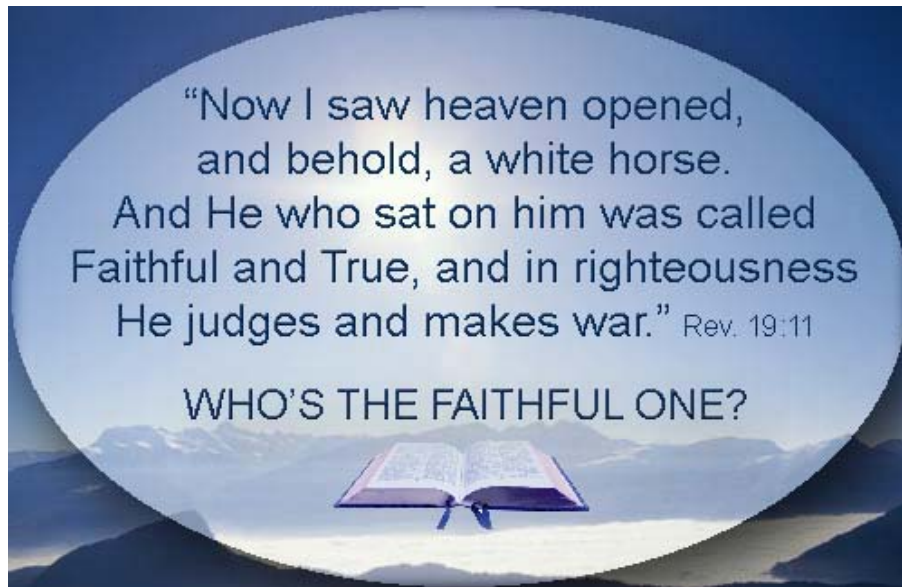


GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



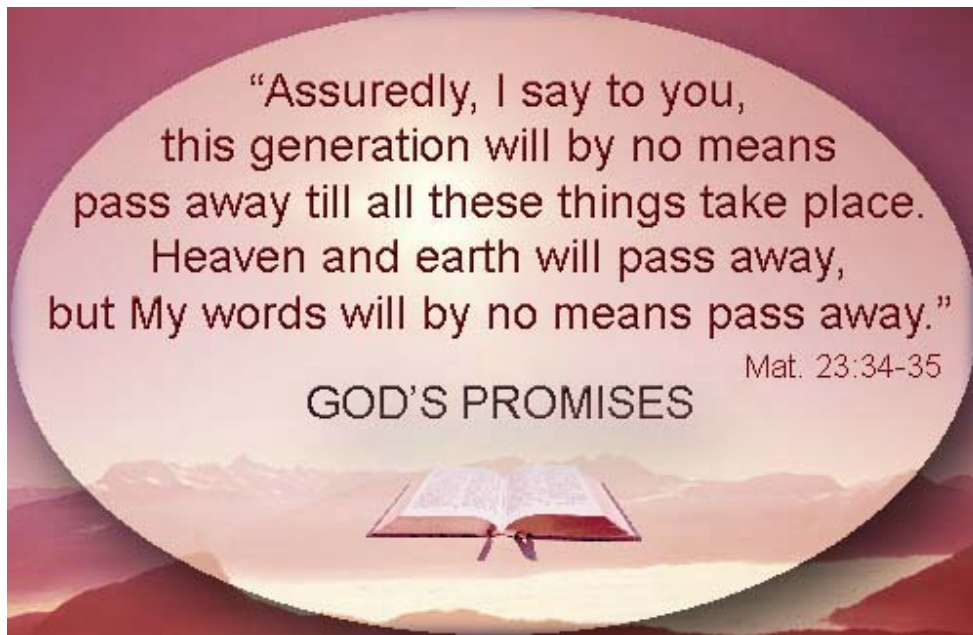
To be faithful is defined as to be constant, loyal, steadfast and resolute in the promises or commitments made. That's why to trust or have faith is defined as to believe in one's promises.

Is Christ faithful? The Book of Revelation clearly identifies Christ as the Faithful One. Jesus instructed the apostle John this way: "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the Creation of God." Rev. 3:14. In very clear wording, Jesus is referred to as the Faithful One even before creation took place. In Rev. 1:5 John describes Jesus as "the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler over the kings of the earth."

Throughout the 3 years of His ministry in Jerusalem, Judea and everywhere else He taught, performed miracles and enjoined people to seek God and follow Him, Jesus always lived to His Word, and all that He said would happen, did. He furthermore proved His steadfast love for us even unto death on the cross.

This world has witnessed the faithfulness of God and Christ, and countless proofs of His love for mankind. That's why Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever."

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Is God faithful in all of His promises? Psalms 89:28-29, talking about David God said, “I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail. I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.” In essence, God promised that He would uphold David throughout his life and make sure he would have descendants, and we know that Jesus, our Savior and Lord, was born of the lineage of David.

What other promises did God give us in His Word? “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.” (Deut. 31:6) Paul said in 2 Thes 3:3, “But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one.”

God never said that we would not be tempted, nor have trials. What however He decried clearly is His faithfulness in providing deliverance to those who are His, such as, “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12)

That we know; our God will never fail us as we stand on His Word and hold on to His promises by faith.

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“Forever, Lord, Your Word stands
in heaven. Your faithfulness continues
throughout generations; You established
the earth, and it stands.”

Psalm 119:89-90



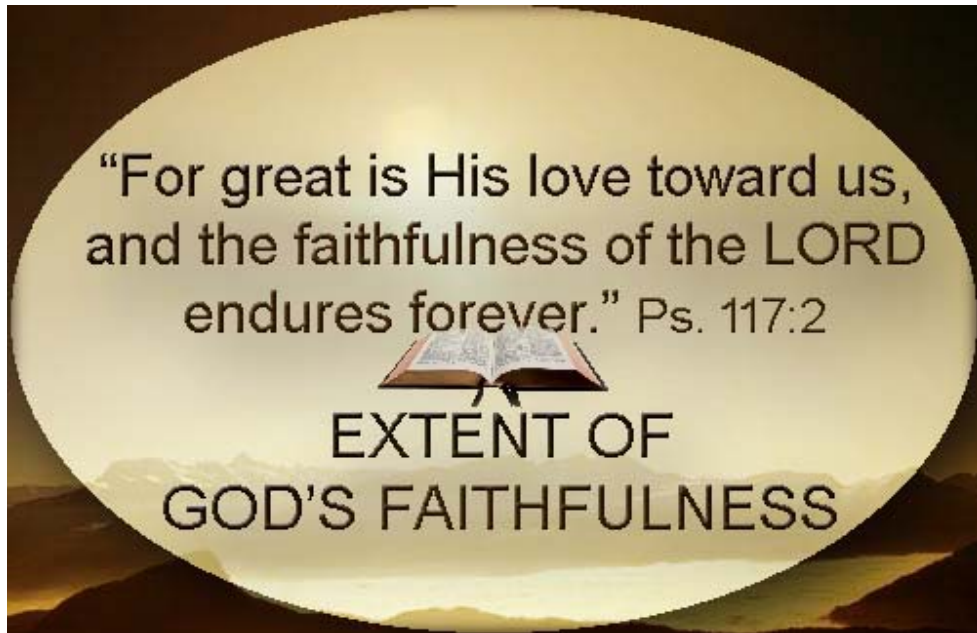
PROOF OF GOD'S
FAITHFULNESS

What do you believe sustains the entire heaven and earth? Is it man's intelligence, technology, or simply an accident of nature, such as some call the Big Bang theory? In all truth, it is easier to believe in God than in what the world tells us. We know that accidents sure don't create, but rather destroy, right?

What proofs do we have of God's faithfulness towards mankind? The featured scripture brings a very clear message that notwithstanding our fallen nature, our propensity to destroy one another through wars, or whether we worry about global warming or whatever else concern we may have about our environment, the earth still stands. As well, it will until such time God draws the line, as he has already decreed in Revelation 21, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

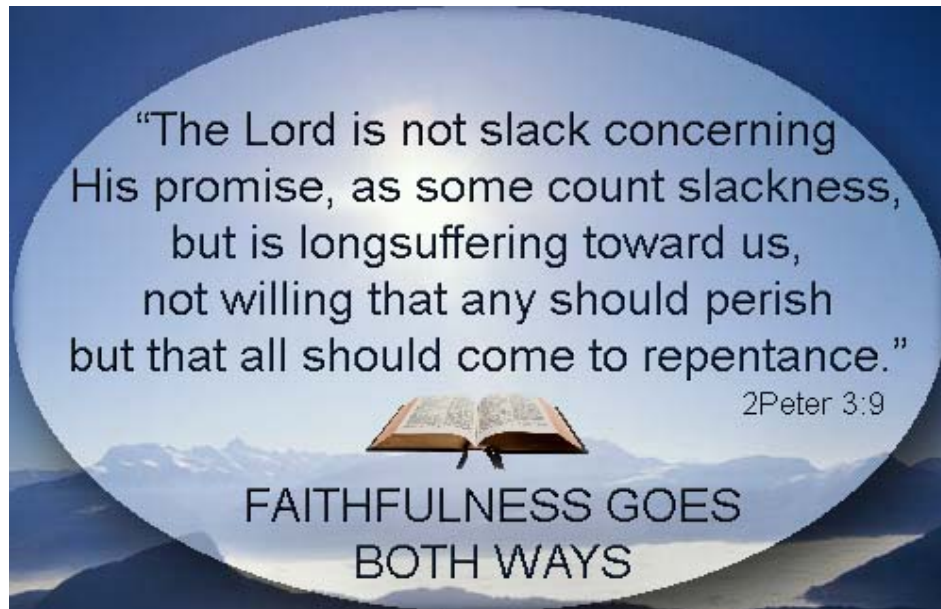
Hebrews 11:2 says, "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." Throughout the Word of God, we find proof after proof of God's faithfulness. Didn't God promise us a Savior through the prophet Isaiah? Didn't it come to pass in Christ Jesus? Need more proof, or more... faith?

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How far does God's faithfulness go, in spite of man's constant rebellion against God? God has proven His faithfulness to mankind from the very start of creation. First, He sustains us all, whether we honor Him or not. "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Mat. 5:45) He provides for the material needs to sustain us for this life. Furthermore, God blesses His children, those who have surrendered their lives to Him. That's why in Psalm 23 David said, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want... He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever." Paul in 1 Cor 1:9 said, "God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." Evidently, THROUGH CHRIST we have access to a STRESS FREE, WORRY FREE and ANXIETY FREE life by TRUSTING HIM. It's our decision to choose between the Kingdom of God, and the evil kingdom of this world. The choice is ours, but the outcome is God's.

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Is God's faithfulness defined only as blessings bestowed upon us? Isn't there an element of God's faithfulness that includes discipline when we entertain sin in our lives, so as to bring us back into a proper relationship and attitude with God? The featured scripture specifies that the Lord desires that we not perish, the reason for discipline when we sin. That's why the apostle John said, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1John 1:9)

We must remember that faithfulness works both ways. If we aren't faithful to our commitment to honor and serve God, we should expect that the Lord however is steadfast in His commitment to bring us back on the path of righteousness. Paul, in Hebrews 10:23 added, "Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful." Psalm 31:23 gives us this warning; "The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full."

Our faith in God can't just be momentary feelings at our discretion, but rather a complete surrender of our hearts to follow Christ. A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. (Pr. 28:20)

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