

I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

²⁰ David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.”

I Chronicles 28:20

I. The perpetual promise / Six times God pledges his permanent presence. In no instance were the individuals worthy of it; it was all of grace.

A. Jacob (Genesis 28:15)

¹⁵ *I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”*

* To Jacob, running from home, brother, father, sin and God: He was undeserving; all was grace.

B. To Israel, (Deuteronomy 31:6,8) after forty wasted years of wandering, murmuring, faithlessness, and disobedience, all was grace.

⁶ *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” ... ⁸ The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*

C. To Joshua (Joshua 1:9) Joshua was timid uncertain and untried. Grace makes the promise at the outset, before the trial.

⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

D. To Solomon (I Chronicles 28:20) also untested, having the potential of great wisdom and folly, grace speaks.

E. To the Psalmist (Psalm 37:25-28) reminding all of God’s children of his unfailing divine provision of their needs.

²⁵ *I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. ²⁶ They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing. ²⁷ Turn from evil and do good;*

then you will dwell in the land forever. ²⁸ *For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed; the offspring of the wicked will perish.*

F. To the Hebrew Christians (Hebrews 13:5) who were tempted to draw back and to cast away their confidence. All were unworthy. God's grace alone assured the perpetual promise.

⁵ *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

II. In all six mentions each stood on the brink of breakthrough and greatness.

A. Jacob would recover from failure to fulfill destiny already endangered by his lack of character.

B. Israel would enter and possess, unitedly, the promised land.

C. Joshua would lead, rule, discipline, and encourage Israel, and establish a new community.

D. Solomon would build the temple, creating a focus for Israel's faith, worship, and witness.

E. The Psalmist prepared the people for deeper trust and a complete commitment to God.

F. The Hebrews would hold on in severely testing circumstances. They would endure through peril and persecution.