

## Scripture Reading

### A Reading from the Book of Numbers (*Numbers 23:19*)

God is not human, that He should lie, not a human being, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill? The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

### Reflection – Everyone should know of God’s Promises

**Every person should know of God’s promises as enshrined in His written Word.** No one can ever make the type of promises which God solemnly makes to us. God promises us that there is no other god besides Himself (cf. Isaiah 43:10, Isaiah 44:6,8, Isaiah 45:5-6,21, Isaiah 46:9, Deuteronomy 4:35, 32:29). God alone is the Most High. God the Father loves us so much that He sends His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ as a sacrifice to save everyone from their sins (cf. John 3:16). God wants everyone to be saved and to know the truth (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4). God has prepared a special place in heaven for everyone (cf. John 14:3). God is with us always till the end of time (cf. Matthew 28:20). God cares to the minutest detail of our everyday life (cf. Matthew 10:30). He is close to those who suffer (cf. Psalm 34:18). We will not be tested beyond our endurance (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13). His love is everlasting (cf. Jeremiah 31:3). If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). His graces are always available to us (cf. Philippians 4:13). God takes delight in us! (cf. Psalm 149:4, Zephaniah 3:17). These are some of God’s promises.

**God has shown that He always keeps His promises.** Despite Abraham’s childlessness at an advanced age, God promised him that his descendants would be more numerous than the sands on the beach, and so it was. God promised to Noah that the great flood would come, and it did. He promised a rainbow, and it came. Relying on the promises of God, Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still and they did. God promised Moses that He would divide the Red Sea and it was done. When Jesus became incarnate in the flesh, God fulfilled many promises made to the Jewish people regarding a saviour. There was absolutely no reason why God will not or cannot keep His promises. He is love personified and will not withhold anything good from His children. He is the Truth and cannot lie. His power is limitless and there is nothing that He cannot do.

**Claiming God’s Promises.** When the Israelites cried out in fear to Moses at the prospect of the pursuing Egyptians, Moses reacted in great courage and faith. He told his people not to be afraid, to stand firm and that the Lord would fight their battle for them (cf. Exodus 14:13-14). The first requisite for claiming God’s promises is to have great faith, believing that whatever that cannot be humanly done will be taken care of by God according to His will, in His own way and time. Like Moses, Joshua was able to claim the Lord’s promise that He would be with them. In unwavering faith, Joshua carefully obeyed what the Lord instructed. The Lord told him to be strong and courageous, and to obey Moses (cf. Joshua 1:7). *Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8).* Obedience to God’s Word and His teachings is another condition for claiming God’s promises.

**Living God’s Promises.** We can never claim any of God’s promises unless we know of them. Unless we are familiar with God’s Word, we will not know what God promises His children. A promise claimed is a blessing received because the stage is set for God to fulfill His promise. The heroic characters in Scripture show us the conditions that make us worthy of God’s promises. Without exception, audacious, unwavering faith is the absolute requisite. God will only intervene in our lives only as much as we allow Him to through our faith and trust. Jesus did not perform many miracles at Nazareth because of the lack of faith of the people there (cf. Matthew 13:58). True faith must be proven through obedience to God’s Word and His teachings. Perfect obedience and trust were demonstrated by our Blessed Mother Mary when she said to Archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation: *Be it done to me according to your Word (cf. Luke 1:38).*

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, there were many times in my life when I suffered unnecessarily because my faith has been weak. Our Blessed Mother Mary did not live to see the fulfilment of the great promises made to her by Archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation but she was faithful to the end. Please bestow upon me a faith like that of Mary that understands God’s ways, sees His world through His eyes, manifests itself through filial obedience to God’s Word and teachings. Give me a great love for Your Word, and a solid trust in Your power to keep Your promises. Help me to be worthy of all Your wonderful promises especially that of eternal life of peace and joy with You in eternity. Mary, Mother of Salvation, give me a share of your great faith in God. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)