

DELIVERING ON PROMISES

My daughter has been fortunate so far at university not to have had to purchase many textbooks. In one English class this semester the professor informed her that she would have to purchase a certain translated version of the Iliad written by Homer. My daughter went to the bookstore at Western and discovered that they only had hard cover versions priced at \$50.00. That cheap side she inherited from you-know-who, took over so she decided to look on Amazon to see what it would cost to buy it there. She found the exact version the professor wanted for just one-third of the cost. Nadine ordered the book for Coral on Thursday, and it was supposed to be delivered to her in London on Friday afternoon.

On Friday, Nadine went on to her Amazon account and saw confirmation that the item was out for delivery. She checked later that afternoon to see if it had arrived and saw that now they were saying it would be delivered between 5:00-8:00 p.m. Coral arrived back at her place in London between 9:00-10:00 p.m. that night and discovered the package had still not been delivered. Nadine went back on-line and found out that the package would now be delivered on Saturday morning.

On Saturday morning we drove up to London, and on the way, Nadine checked again about the status of the delivery. The message now said it would not arrive until sometime that afternoon. Seeing the pattern that was unfolding and the uncertainty when this book would actually arrive, we decided to stop at Indigo instead and purchase it for Coral. It cost \$30.00 at Indigo, but it was still a considerable reduction from what it would have cost at the Western University bookstore.

This was not the first time we have had this experience with Amazon where they promised to deliver something on a certain date, only to keep responding back it would arrive at a later time. A few weeks ago, Nadine ordered a plastic cover for the top of a wicker desk Coral would be taking with her to university. Just like the case with this book, this delivery kept getting delayed. Nadine had to source this same item elsewhere as a result of Amazon not following through on their promises.

I imagine many of you have had similar experiences where promises made have not been fulfilled. Thankfully we do not have to worry about this when

it comes to God. Throughout Scripture we are provided with many assurances of how it is God's nature to always keep the promises He makes. One example is found in this passage from the book of Joshua after the Israelites settled into the Promised Land:

So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had solemnly promised their ancestors. None of their enemies could stand against them; the Lord helped them conquer all their enemies. Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything He had spoken came true. (Joshua 21:43-45).

It is interesting that God wanted the Israelites to be reminded of this aspect of His nature as they were preparing for their future ahead in the Promised Land. While fulfillment of some of the promises God made to their ancestors took many years to come to fruition, He wanted the Israelites to know **He faithfully fulfilled and kept every promise He made.**

Reminding the Israelites of this at such a key moment in their new lives in the Promised Land would help them to walk with hope and assurance moving forward knowing God would continue to be faithful in keeping His promises to them.

We can be blessed and assured by holding onto this same reminder about God's character and nature in these uncertain times in which we live. We cannot have this kind of assurance and confidence from some of the biggest organizations in the world like Amazon, but we thankfully can count on God when it comes to delivering on His promises.

My daughter started taking notes as she began reading the Iliad on Sunday. I made notes too in the book I read constantly when it came to this passage from Joshua. One of the books my daughter will be reading at some point in her English class is portions of the Bible including Genesis. It should come as no surprise that there are more examples to be found in Genesis of God keeping His promises.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean