

If

'If' is such a small word, and yet it has great power. The dictionary defines 'if' as "on condition of". Some of the greatest promises or blessings given to us in God's Word rest "on condition of" or if we meet His conditions, He will give the blessings.

Moses spoke clearly to Israel concerning the conditions of receiving a blessing or a curse in Deuteronomy 11:26-28... "the blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God the curse if you will not obey..."

God spoke to Solomon in the same manner in I Kings 9:4-7; that though He had given Solomon wisdom and allowed him to build the temple, he (Solomon) was not exempt from fulfilling the 'if' in his walk before God. "And if you walk before Me, keeping My statutes and precepts -- then I will establish your kingdom. But if you turn away from following Me, then will I cut off Israel from the land I have given them."

Nations rise or fall "on condition of" meeting God's requirements. In Jeremiah 12:17 we read "if any nation will not hear and obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, says the Lord." Jeremiah 18:8 reveals the "blessing" if "And if the people of that nation concerning which I have spoken, turn from the evil, I will relent and reverse My decision concerning the evil I thought to do to them." This principle for nations is further amplified in the often quoted II Chronicles 7:14 "if My people..."

'If' also plays a part in our relationship with God Himself. "If you seek Him, you will find Him, but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever!" (II Chronicles 28:9)

Even the conditions of following Jesus rest on that little word 'if'; "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate - even his own life - he cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26) and "if anyone serves Me, he must continue to follow Me. if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him." (John 12:26)

The conditions of demonstrating our love for Jesus are also established by that little word 'if': "Jesus answered, if a person really loves Me, he will keep My Word" (John 14:23)

As Christians we are prone to think that God will keep His part of the bargain whether we do or not. We must remember that whatever a man sows, that and that only will he reap. (Galatians 6:7) If you seek Him, you will find Him; if we desire His blessings then we must obey His Word; if we really love Him, we will keep His Word. God blesses "on condition of" our obedience.