

of men to attribute their own weaknesses to God. But he who will be blessed will take God at his Word and live by it.

c. He must believe God will do what he says.

It is minor but important. God will do his Word towards you even if you have fears or disbelief. But especially as concerns His many promises to us, one is only confirmed or made sure as he willingly believes God and applies the promise to his heart.

3. In further passages this same line of thinking may be researched. Consider John 8:24 in its context. "If you believe not I am, you shall die in your sins." Note also 2 Peter 3:4-11 as a good note for our age. In historical perspective consider Genesis 12 and the call of God to Abraham. And when these are noted, both predictively and historically note that the one who does not believe cannot be blessed. If you will share in the good that God gives and the deliverance he provides...You must believe in him and rest on His Word...one will not be blessed in proportion who does not believe. The predictive Scriptures teach us again that absolute trust in him is the condition of blessing through His Word.

B. Deliverance is by God's Appointed Means.

1. This might almost seem like a Gospel application and, in some ways it is. The predictive passages are full of this line. God delivers...he does it by might and power...we benefit when we believe and yield to him. But there is no substitute for his appointed means of deliverance. We cannot secure our own ends. There are matters he has given us to do and many of these relate to believing him and executing his own decrees in given areas. Since God alone can know and govern the future it is interesting how much of the prophecies hinge on deliverance in his own time.

One might read of this in Galatians 4 or in Luke as Anna spoke to those in Jerusalem who