

*Please discuss God's promises and why they take so long to be fulfilled and the poor.*

Whereas Jews are given a land promise by God (Ac 7:5; He 11:9), Christians are given a spiritual promise (2 Ti 2:15).

For the Christian God promises: the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49), salvation (Ac 2:39), the kingdom (Jas 2:5), eternal life (Tt 1:2), a crown of life (Jas 1:12) and a new earth (2 Pe 3:13).<sup>1</sup>

God says that his promises are not slow (2 Pe 3:4–13).

He is concerned for the poor.

J. Vernon McGee wrote:

As long as men are natural men who are not born-again Christians, the poor will never get a fair deal in this world. Their only hope is in Jesus Christ.

Listen to the Word of God: "But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty" (Job 5:15). And in Job 36:15 we read, "He delivereth the poor in his affliction, and openeth their ears in oppression." Psalm 9:18 says, "For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever." Again in Psalms we read, "Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor" (Ps. 68:10). "For the LORD heareth the poor ..." says Psalm 69:33. "For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy" (Ps. 72:12–13). Then in Psalm 102:17 we read, "He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer." There is Scripture after Scripture that speaks of the poor and of God's concern for them. In marvelous Psalm 45 we read of the One who is coming who will reign on this earth in righteousness, and in Isaiah 11 we read, "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor ..." (Isa. 11:4).

God has a great deal to say about the mistreatment of the poor on this earth by the rich and by those who are in power. Someday they will have to answer to Him for it. But the poor can be rich in spiritual things, and that is the important thing for the poor man to see.<sup>2</sup>

Regarding James 2:6-7<sup>3</sup> H. L. Willmington wrote, "The enigma (2:5–7): James cannot understand this, for often it was the rich who persecuted them and ridiculed their Savior."<sup>4</sup>

The privileges of believers include: access to God (Rom. 5:2), Christ's intercession (He 7:25, 26), growth (1 Pe 2:2), intercession of the Spirit (Ro 8:16, 17), kinship with Christ (He 2:10–14), partaking of the

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 508). Thomas Nelson Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> McGee, J. V. (1991). Thru the Bible commentary: The Epistles (James) (electronic ed., Vol. 53, pp. 58–59). Thomas Nelson.

<sup>3</sup> But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

<sup>4</sup> Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Jas 2:5–7). Tyndale House Publishers.

divine nature (2 Pe 1:4), suffering with Christ (Ac 5:41), trials to overcome (1 Pe 1:6–8) and victorious living (Ro 8:37–39).<sup>5</sup>

The believer has hope now and in the future (2 Co 1:7). The Lord acts for those who wait for him (Isa 64:4).

The believer must be patient in affliction (Ro 12:12). Every man must bear his own burden (Ga 6:5).

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<sup>5</sup> Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 506). Thomas Nelson Publishers.