

The Awesome, Awful Promises of God

The Bible is a book that's full of promises, and its main character is a promise-maker. Almost nine thousand promises are made in Scripture, and eighty-five percent of them are promises that God made to human beings. Many of God's promises are hopeful and optimistic, like when He pledged to love us, to save us, and to give us eternal life. But some of His promises in the Bible seem hopeless and grim, such as His repeated vows to punish sins and destroy the world as we know it.

So how should we interpret and understand the full range of God's promises in the Bible? Do God's positive promises contradict with His unpleasant ones, or is there a way to reconcile them? And how do the promises that God made thousands of years ago apply to our lives today? In January and February at The Story, we'll explore these questions and more throughout this series by taking a closer look at the specific promises that God made through the Old Testament prophet Isaiah.

January 12, 2025 - Part 2 - The Devil's Promise

Opening Question: Do you believe in Satan? Why or why not?

Isaiah 14:1 - The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Foreigners will join them and unite with the descendants of Jacob.

Who was this part of God's promise for? Has God kept this promise?

Isaiah 14:3 - On the day the LORD gives you relief from your suffering and turmoil and from the harsh labor forced on you, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon...

What did Babylon represent symbolically in the Bible, and who was the "king of Babylon"?

Isaiah 14:4-8 - How the oppressor has come to an end! How his fury has ended! The Lord has broken the rod of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers, which in anger struck down peoples with unceasing blows, and in fury subdued nations with relentless aggression. All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing. Even the junipers and the cedars of Lebanon gloat over you and say, "Now that you have been laid low, no one comes to cut us down."

Isaiah named some of the Devil's deeds in this passage - wickedness, abuse and exploitation of people, fury, etc. What are some other examples of "the works of Satan" in the world that you have seen?

Why do you think so many Christians do not take Satan seriously?

What does the Bible teach about Satan's origins? How and why did he end up on the earth? (See *Ezekiel 28:12-17*)

Isaiah 14:12-15 - How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

What are the important differences between Satan's aspirations and those of Jesus Christ?

Isaiah 14:24, 26-27 - The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen. This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations...and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?"

What did God promise to do about the Devil?

What strategies and tools do we find in the Bible to combat the Enemy's schemes?

Your Notes:



Registration OPEN for Spring Groups

Registration for all of our Spring groups is OPEN! Stop by our registration table by the front entrance on Sundays to learn more about our Group offerings in-person or sign up online via our website page: thestory.church/groups



Upcoming Partnership Course

Come learn more about The Story's history, beliefs, and ministries, and become an official Partner (our version of membership) at our three-week Partnership Course. Session starts Wednesday, January 29. Learn more and register on: thestory.church/events



The Worry-Free Parent with Sissy Goff

Join us at The Story on Saturday, February 8 at 10am for a special presentation, book signing, and meet-and-greet with author and podcast host Sissy Goff! Tickets are available on thestory.church/events - and they are selling quickly!