

# 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.

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## **January 26, 2025 - Part 4 -**

**Opening Question:** Has a parent, spouse, or loved one ever made you a promise that was hard to hear, but was made out of a place of love?

Throughout Isaiah, we see warnings about God's coming judgment.

### **Isaiah 24:1-2**

See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants— It will be the same for priest as for people, for the master as for his servant, for the mistress as for her servant, for seller as for buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor. The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The LORD has spoken this word.

What is shocking or unsettling from this warning in Isaiah 24? Who all will be subject to this devastation?

Have you witnessed destruction that does not discriminate?

### **Isaiah 24:5-6**

The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws violated the statutes, and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up and very few are left.

## **The curse that consumes the earth**

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ God's Laws  
How are you guilty of this in your own life?

2. We \_\_\_\_\_ God's Laws

How do you see this play out in your life or our culture?

3. We \_\_\_\_\_ God's Covenant

What are the effects of this on us? What do we deserve for our actions?

**Isaiah 25:6-8** On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

How does Jesus overcome the curse we lay upon ourselves and the devastation we deserve? What is the new covenant he offers us?

**Gal 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us

How does the devastation promised in Isaiah 24 help us better understand Isaiah 25?



### **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](https://thestory.church/events) - and they are selling quickly!



### **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](https://thestory.church/events)



### **Serve with Jubilee Prison Ministry This Spring**

We have FOUR upcoming weekends to serve with Jubilee Prison Ministry! Head to our website's events page to learn more about these opportunities and sign up - trainings for these weekends are coming up soon!