

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.

February 2, 2025 - Part 5 - God's Promise of Perfect Peace

Opening Question: Can you remember a time when you experienced perfect peace? If so, describe that experience here. If not, why do you think perfect peace has eluded you?

What are some common ways that people pursue peace in their lives?

Why is true peace so elusive for so many people?

What is the dictionary definition of peace, and how is it insufficient?

John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

How do Jesus' words about peace contradict the world's definition of peace?

Peace is not the _____ of _____;
it is the _____ of _____.

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

How did Isaiah write the phrase translated as "perfect peace," and why does it matter?

Isaiah 26:8-9 Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.

What does this passage teach us about finding true, lasting peace?

How are so many of the most popular, secular pursuits of peace (financial peace, relational peace, world peace, inner peace, etc.) *almost* right, and what are they missing?

How do many secular pursuits of peace leave people feeling even less at peace?

What about your life would change if you directed your deepest desire toward God and placed all your trust in Him? What, if anything, is keeping you from trusting Him completely?

Your notes:



Upcoming Guest Speakers

We're excited to host two exciting guest Speakers in February!
Feb. 9th - Dr. Voddie Baucham - 9:45 & 11:05am ONLY (No 8:30 service for this week!)

Feb. 16th - Majed el Shafie - 8:30, 9:45 & 11:05am



Overflow Starts TONIGHT

Overflow - our NEW Sunday night student gathering - kicks off this TONIGHT at 6:30pm! Drop your 6th-12th grade students off for a time of worship and teaching upstairs in The Loft, and end with fun games in the gym.



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://www.thestory.church/events)