

☞ Promises, Promises

Promises! Promises! So many are made and so few are kept. Do you know the feeling? Politicians make campaign promises in order to gain our votes. Sales representatives make all kinds of pledges to win our business. In relationships, men and women pledge each other all kinds of things just to get what they want. But when two or three politicians with contradicting promises try to work together, something has to give. At least one will break his or her campaign promises. Sales representatives find out the item you wanted is out of stock and you have to pay for something else. And too many people decide that the person they wanted so much isn't all that they desired once they have them. There are no certainties with people are there? When it comes to people who make promises, it seems there are no guarantees. But with God, a promise made is a promise kept.

☞ Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; **he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant** of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

Joshua 21:45

Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

☞ 2 Corinthians 1:20

no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

God keeps his promises!

Adam

Genesis 2:15-17

...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.

Genesis 4:22

Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

Serpent

Genesis 3:14-15

...he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Colossians 2:15

...triumphing over them by the cross.

Abraham

Genesis 15:3-4

Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." **4** Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."

Genesis 17:15-16 (*God was even more specific*)

...Sarah... **16** I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Genesis 21:1-2

...the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. **2** Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

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☞ **Birth of Christ**

Isaiah 7:14

the Lord himself will give you a sign: The **virgin** will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

☞ **Luke 1:30-35**

the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. **31** You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." **34** "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

☞ **Micah 5:2**

But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

☞ **Luke 2:4-7**

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

God keeps his promises!

☞ **The Biblical Christmas story:**

Luke 1:26-38	Gabriel visits Mary
Matthew 1:18-25	Angel visits Joseph in a dream
Luke 2:1-20	Jesus born; shepherds visit
Matthew 2:1-12	Magi visit; family escapes to Egypt

☞ Death of Christ

Isaiah 53:5-6

he was **pierced for our transgressions**, he was crushed for our iniquities; the **punishment** that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **6** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

☞ **John 19:16-18**

...Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). **18** Here they crucified him...

John 19:33-34

when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. **34** Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

☞ **Isaiah 53:7**

he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so **he did not open his mouth**.

☞ **Matthew 26:62-63**

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" **63** But Jesus remained silent.

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☞ Resurrection of Christ

Mark 8:31

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and **after three days rise again**.

☞ **Luke 9:22**

And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed **and on the third day be raised to life**."

☞ **Matthew 28:5-7**

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6** He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.

☞ **Luke 24:1-8**

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when

they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. **5** In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? **6** He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: **7** 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" **8** Then they remembered his words.

By the way, the record of the resurrection of Jesus is indisputable. Many very capable people have tried to disprove it, but failed to do so. In fact, some of those people who were out to prove his resurrection to be a fraud actually became believers when they realized the evidence was overwhelming and undeniable.

God keeps his promises! And there's more...

☞ **Return of Christ**

John 14:1-3

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God **a**; trust also in me. **2** In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**

☞ **Acts 1:9-11**

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **10** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11** "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same **Jesus**, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back** in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

☞ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. **14** We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. **15** According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For **the Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** After that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And so we will be with the Lord forever. **18** Therefore encourage each other with these words.

☞ **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

Revelation 3:11
I am coming soon.

☞ **Revelation 22:7**
Behold, I am coming soon!

Revelation 22:20
He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

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☞ **Our Response**
Matthew 24:42-44

"Therefore **keep watch**, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. **43** But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. **44** So you also must **be ready**, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

☞ **Luke 21:36**

Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

☞ **1 Thessalonians 4:17-18**

And so we will be with the Lord forever. **18** Therefore **encourage each other** with these words.

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☞ **Video: Standing on the Promises**