



God of the Promise

Week 1 | The Promise of Salvation

| KEY THOUGHTS

- Everyone faces all sorts of deadlines, and there's something ominous about them.
 - We often want to either avoid them or get an extension on them.
 - **One deadline we all face is death.**
 - We don't know when it is, but we know it's out there somewhere; and there's no extension on that one.
- We tend to deal with deadlines one of three ways: live in fear of it; fight against it; or try to forget it by filling our lives with enough activity to distract us from it.
- When the nation of Judah faced invasion by Assyria, God sent Isaiah the prophet to call them to not fear, not fight, and not forget about this looming deadline, but to focus on Him.
- We are all called to look past our current situation and the death deadline that looms in front of us, and to focus on the future God has provided for us.
- **Trusting God's promise for victory in the future doesn't mean we'll avoid unpleasant things ahead, but that we'll experience what He promises on the other side.**
- Trust is based on knowing the character and reliability of the person in question; we struggle to trust God because we don't really know who He is.
- When someone we thought was reliable lets us down, we make new rules:
 - Never trust anyone, ever again;
 - Don't rely on anyone other than myself.
- But we're not capable of saving ourselves; only God can do that. So the only way to survive the death deadline is to trust Him.
- **Jesus trusted God all the way to the cross and turned the punishment into victory.**
- He didn't fear the deadline of the cross, nor fight against it, nor try to forget it, but focused on the victory on the other side.
- On Good Friday, it looked as if death had swallowed up Jesus; but His resurrection demonstrated that Jesus swallowed up death forever, as Isaiah foretold.
- We celebrate the resurrection today because it's the ultimate victory, here and now.

| SCRIPTURE

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food,
a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow,
of aged wine well refined.

⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸ He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him,
that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Isaiah 25:6-9 (ESV)

No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father
except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Matthew 11:27 (NLT)

⁵⁴ “...Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where
is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks
be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the
Father except through me.

John 14:6 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- I can't trust people that I can see; how can I trust God, whom I can't see? By coming to know Him.
- How can I know God? By knowing Jesus (who is God) and putting your faith in Him as your Forgiver and Leader.
- And how am I supposed to do *that*? By choosing to! Make the decision to trust Him, again and again, every step of the way through the rest of your life.
- Decide to believe what He says is true;
 - Allow Him to reorient your life to His truth;
 - Unmake and unlearn the old rules;
 - Resist the urge to rely on yourself;
 - Allow the Holy Spirit (who is also God) to reshape your thoughts, attitudes, and desires.

| REFLECT

- Would you like to embrace God as your Hero, as He is described in this passage in Isaiah? He is truly the only one who can rescue you from the inevitable destruction of death.
- When we're in Christ, we're not immune to life's troubles and heartaches, nor to the end of our physical lives as we know them; but we can know there's a real resurrection on the other side. And all that will be more real than our pain is now.
- In Christ, the sin that separates us from God is removed forever, and we enter into our true reward: God Himself.
- There's only one thing in all the world that can prevent you from trusting in Christ and entering into the life that you were created for: that barrier is you.
- Will you make the decision to believe that Jesus has paid the price for your sin so you can enjoy freedom and fellowship with God forever?

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