

THE PROMISE
LUKE 2:4-12

I promise: - who might make these promises to you?

- o To take you to the zoo tomorrow
- o To be here next Sunday
- o To send Jesus to be Your Saviour
- o To share my chocolate with you
- o To be with you always
- o To invite you to the palace for the garden party
- o To make you a chocolate cake for your birthday.

Lots of people promise things and sometimes they mean it and sometimes they don't; sometimes they keep promises and sometimes not; sometimes they remember and sometimes forget; sometimes there are good reasons why people don't keep their promises, because they're ill, or sometimes they just can't be bothered.

God promised a new King to the people: "To us..." (Isaiah 9:6) One day there would be a king born who would rule the world and He would always be King and the world would be a better place because of this King. The people loved that promise; the day would be a great day, the day when God kept His promise and the child was born because that would be the day when God would save the world. So they looked forward to that day with hope in their hearts, longing for it to happen, longing for the day to come when God would keep His promise. But years went past and there was no sign of this king, no sign of the promise coming true; will God keep his promise? Should they keep trusting Him? Had He changed His mind and let the people down? Had He forgotten?

One night, there were some shepherds in the fields; it was dark, maybe cold; they were looking after their sheep; all of a sudden the sky lit up as if it were day time in the middle of the night; they heard a voice saying: "do not..." (Lk 2:10f) Afraid? They're terrified! But they listen well enough to hear what the angel had to say; "a baby? The Christ? The Lord? These are words that went with the old promise of 100's of years ago; words that go with the promise God made to send a new King; let's go see!" So they went to Bethlehem and found the baby, just as angels had said and shepherds knew that God had kept His promise; Christmas is about God keeping His promise.

"When the..." (Titus 3:4) That is what God is like: kind, tender, loving and because He is these things, He has saved us; Jesus has come into the world and has lived a good life, has helped people in need, then He died on the cross and was raised from the dead to live forever and because He did all of that He is our Saviour. Now He promises to help us when life is hard; He promises to forgive us all our faults and mistakes; He promises to bring peace to us when we're afraid; He promises to be w/us all the time and everywhere we go, though we can't see Him. All these promises, God keeps because He is kind, tender, and loving and wants to do us good.

God is good, He has promised good things to us and day after day He will keep these promises; Christmas shows us that God keeps His promises. Rejoice!