

Back to the Future

Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Isaiah 53; Mark 15:22-39; Acts 1:9-11;
The Desire of Ages, pp. 231-242, 469, 470, 627, 628, 830, 831

Carlos knew how to ride a bicycle, but his little sister Sarita did not. Sarita wished that she could learn. "Carlos, would you teach me to ride a bicycle?" Sarita begged.

"I'll start teaching you tomorrow after school," Carlos promised. "I want to ride to Juan's house right now."

The next day after school, Carlos got out his bicycle. Sarita came running to him. But Carlos said, "I'll see you later, Sarita. Juan has asked me to play ball with him." Sarita started to cry and said, "But you promised to teach me after school today."

Carlos answered, "I don't want to do it today. Juan is waiting for me." And he rode away.

Did Carlos keep his promise?

God never breaks His promises. He has always done what He promised and He always will.

God promised the Jews a king who would save them and bring them peace (Micah 5:1-5). They were told where He would be born: Out of Bethlehem will come "one who will be

ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2, NIV).

Seven hundred years later, a baby was born in Bethlehem. This baby's birth was announced by angels from heaven! Real people heard the angels with their own ears. This baby's Father was God. He was definitely someone "whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." He was Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

And He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:20-23). God keeps His promises!

Micah the prophet said that the promised ruler would "shepherd His flock." His greatness would "reach to the ends of the earth" (Micah 5:4, NIV). That was an exciting promise, because the Jews had been treated like servants for many years.

Sure enough, when Jesus grew up He called Himself the "good shepherd" who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:14, 15). God keeps His promises!

And Jesus did lay down His life for the sins of everyone in the world (1 Corinthians 15:3). God promised more



The Message

*I know God keeps His promises,
because Bible prophecies come true.*

Memory Verse

**“ ‘You know . . . that not
one of all the good
promises the Lord your
God gave you has failed.
Every promise has been
fulfilled’ ”**

(Joshua 23:14, NIV).

about Jesus through the prophets. Jesus would suffer and die to save His people from their sins (Isaiah 53:5, 12). Isaiah also wrote that Jesus was familiar with suffering. “He was crushed for our iniquities; . . . by his wounds we are healed. . . . The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. . . . For he bore the sin of many” (Isaiah 53:3, 5, 6, 12, NIV). Yes, Jesus really did die to save you and me. God keeps His promises!

One Sabbath Jesus was in the synagogue. He was invited to read from the Bible of that time—the scrolls. Jesus read about a promise from Isaiah. God would anoint someone to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and release prisoners from darkness (Isaiah 61:1). Everyone listened closely. And then Jesus rolled up the scroll and handed it to the attendant. He sat down to lead the discussion part of the service.

“ ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing’ ” (Luke 4:21, NIV). He announced. He was clearly saying, “I am the person you were promised. This promise has come true!”

Now it's our time—the time of the end. And we are waiting for the

last of God's promises to be fulfilled—the promise given by angels just after Jesus went back to heaven. Do you remember it? “ ‘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’ ” (Acts 1:11, NIV). Jesus Himself said, “ ‘I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am’ ” (John 14:3, NIV).

All the other Bible promises of God have come true. And this one will too. We can believe this promise—for God keeps all His promises! Jesus will come again!



S A B B A T H

READ Read and discuss your lesson story with your family.

DO Take a Sabbath walk. Find a strong rock and bring it home. Read your memory verse in Joshua 23:14. Copy it on your strong rock to remind you of the strength of God's promises. Then thank Him for them.

S U N D A Y

READ How has God promised to let us know His plans? Read and discuss Amos 3:7 for family worship. Thank God for His plan for us.

DO Attach your memory verse to the cover of the promise book or the promise box that you made in Sabbath School. Point to it and read your memory verse with expression. Then read a promise from the book or box.

M O N D A Y

DO Find a twig or small branch. Break it, then tape the broken pieces together. Was it easy to break? Was it easy to repair? Is the repaired twig as strong as before? This twig is like promises. If they are broken, their strength is gone, and they can't ever be like new.

READ Read and discuss together Genesis 8:18-9:1, 8-17. What promise did God make to Noah and to us as well? Has He kept it?

DO Say your memory verse; then thank God for Bible promises.

T U E S D A Y

READ For family worship read and discuss Daniel 2:31-45. Make the image in the king's dream out of clay or draw one and color the different parts the right color. What are the materials in the image? Show the image to your family and explain the dream to them.

DO Say your memory verse together.

SING Sing "Soon and Very Soon" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 89). Thank Jesus for the promise of His coming.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Today would be a good day to share with someone the "Prophecy Picture Book" that you made in Sabbath School. If you are nervous about sharing, read God's promise in Matthew 28:18-20.

DO Say your memory verse without help.

SING Sing "Anywhere With Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 45) before prayer. Ask Jesus to be with you as you share your book.

T H U R S D A Y

READ Something exciting is going to happen soon. With your family read about it in Revelation 22:12.

READ Read John 14:1-3 together. What is the promise? Is it for us?

DRAW Where would you like to live in heaven? Draw a plan of your home there. Ask the rest of your family what they think their home in heaven will be like.

DO Say your memory verse together. Sing "Jesus Keeps His Promises" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 41), then thank Him for the home He is preparing for you.

F R I D A Y

DO For sundown worship celebrate the prophecies that came true when Jesus was born. Read aloud Micah 5:2-5 (first part) and Matthew 2:1. How many years before Jesus' birth did God tell His people exactly where Jesus would be born? What other prophecies came true?

SING Sing this song to the tune of "Happy Birthday": Dear God, we love You. / Your prophecies came true. / When Jesus was born / On that wonderful morn'.

PRAY End the celebration with a prayer of thanks to God for keeping all His promises.

God gave the first promise that Jesus would come to Adam and Eve—right after they sinned.



Back to
the Future

PUZZLE

Directions: Sort out the following letters to find out why we can trust Bible promises.



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The Friendship Game

Directions: Jesus says that through our unity the world will know God sent Him (John 17:23). Get at least two more people to play this game with you.

1. Cut out the activity cards (or make copies).
2. Appoint one person to write down the activities that are chosen by each participant.
3. Blindfold one of the players.
4. Mix up the cards.
5. Allow the blindfolded person to select an activity card.
6. Take off the blindfold and have the person read the card and explain one or more ways they will do that activity in the coming week.
7. Repeat the process until all the cards have been selected.
8. Ask the person who kept the list to read it aloud.
9. Decide when to gather again to report on the activities.

Make a card with a Bible promise and give it to someone who is ill.



Tell someone about how Jesus loves us.



Pray with a friend.



Help a neighbor.



Send a letter of appreciation to your schoolteacher.

Dear teacher,

Help bake cookies for your Sabbath School class.



Give a plant with a Bible promise on a card to your pastor.



Share a toy or a book with a child who needs love.

