

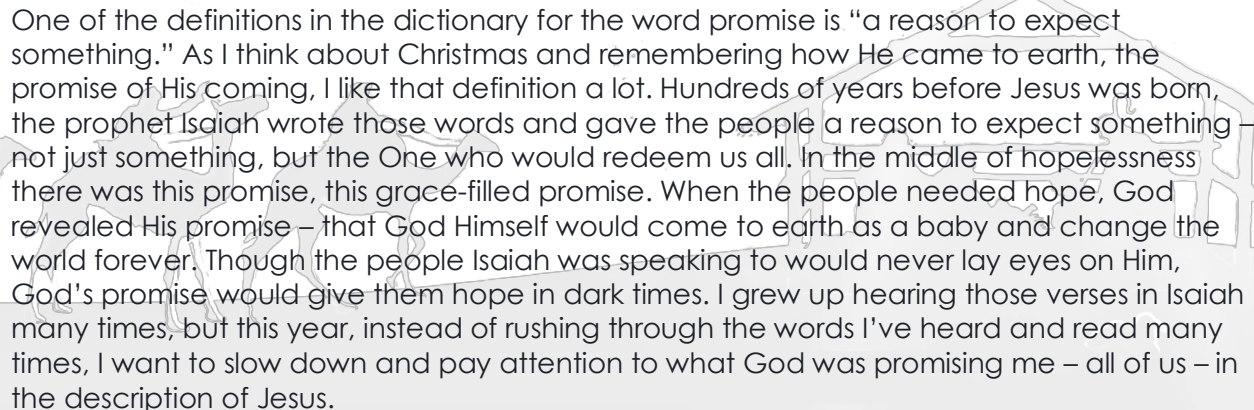


PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

WEEK ONE: PROBLEM

Everlasting Wisdom, Power & Peace

...and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)



One of the definitions in the dictionary for the word promise is “a reason to expect something.” As I think about Christmas and remembering how He came to earth, the promise of His coming, I like that definition a lot. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote those words and gave the people a reason to expect something not just something, but the One who would redeem us all. In the middle of hopelessness there was this promise, this grace-filled promise. When the people needed hope, God revealed His promise – that God Himself would come to earth as a baby and change the world forever. Though the people Isaiah was speaking to would never lay eyes on Him, God's promise would give them hope in dark times. I grew up hearing those verses in Isaiah many times, but this year, instead of rushing through the words I've heard and read many times, I want to slow down and pay attention to what God was promising me – all of us – in the description of Jesus.

Wonderful Counselor – the One with incomprehensible wisdom. The one who always listens, always guides me in the right direction.

Mighty God – the most powerful, able to defend me, to handle everything I face

Everlasting Father – a father who knows no death, cares for me forever

Prince of Peace – the only One who can bring complete calm, well-being and right relationships

These words of prophecy, the promise of the Savior should always get my attention. However, when life is tough - when I lose someone I love dearly, when I experience a health crisis, when I see so much hurt around me – I can easily take my eyes off of the promised One, the One who is who He always said He would be.

Prayer

Father, You always keep your promises, and everything You said Jesus would be long before He ever came to earth as a man are still true, still there for all of us.

This Christmas season, ask God to help you to stop, be still and acknowledge who He is, His character and His nature in every situation in your life, to rest in His promises and run to our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

