Empty Promises ? <> Leë Beloftes ?

Empty promises? – Part 1

I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite their heel. ***Genesis 3:15***

Knowledge of sin is the point of departure for salvation. ***Epicurus***

People have different views regarding the legitimacy of Christmas. There are those who belittle it as a myth whilst others criticize it as being medically impossible; however Christians have steadfastly stood by it through the centuries. Does Christmas still have a place in our modern world, and if so, what role does it play? Let us study a few of the many promises found in the Bible to prove its authenticity. The year is now fast approaching its end – concentrate and be faithful today!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 1

Ek stel vyandskap tussen jou en die vrou, tussen jou nageslag en haar nageslag. Haar nageslag sal jou kop vermorsel en jy sal hom in die hakskeen byt. ***Genesis 3:15***

Kennis van sonde is die vertrekpunt na verlossing. ***Epicurus***

Mense redeneer verskillend oor die egtheid van Kersfees. Baie kraak dit af as ’n fabel; ander kritiseer dit as medies onmoontlik, en die Christene deur die eeue staan vas daarby. Het Kersfees nog plek in ons moderne wêreld, en indien wel, watter rol speel dit? Kom ons kyk na enkele beloftes uit die Bybel wat die egtheid daarvan bevestig. Die jaar is amper om – konsentreer en wees pligsgetrou vandag!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 2

Well then, the Lord himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him ‘Immanuel.’ ***Isaiah 7:14***

God's only Son embraces humankind with His love. ***Edward Taylor***

God has never promised anything and failed to keep the promise. We looked at this earlier on in the year. This is also true of Christ’s birth. The coming of Jesus to the world was not God’s plan B – no, it was meant to be from the beginning of time. Christmas does have a place in this day and age; God confirmed His love for us through Jesus Christ. Enjoy your work today as well as the weekend!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 2

Die Here sal daarom self vir julle ’n teken gee: ’n Jong vrou sal swanger word en ’n seun in die wêreld bring en sy sal hom Immanuel noem. ***Jesaja 7:14***

God se eniggebore Seun omhels die mensdom met sy liefde. ***Edward Taylor***

God het nog nooit iets belowe en dit nie nagekom nie. Ons het vroeër die jaar daarna gekyk. Daarom is dit ook waar van Christus se geboorte. Die koms van Jesus na die wêreld was nie God se plan B nie – dit was so van die begin af. Kersfees het ’n plek in die moderne lewe; daarmee het God sy liefde vir ons deur Jesus Christus kom bevestig. Lekker werk vandag, en geniet die naweek!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 3

A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, “Wonderful Counsellor,” “Mighty God,” Eternal Father,” “Prince of Peace.” ***Isaiah 9:6***

The problem with Christmas is that we again search for the peace of the Christmas tale, but we do not want to allow the Prince of Peace in our lives. ***Addison Leitch***

God proclaims His love for us through comradeship. His Son is the way through which we can find His peace, the path to gain eternal life and receive the best advice. No wonder He is called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God and Eternal Father and Prince of peace! Is that who He is in your life? If He is not the King in your life, you are lost! Rethink this message and share it with those around you – no matter where your place of work might be at the beginning of another new week.

Leë beloftes? – Deel 3

Vir ons is ’n Seun gebore, aan ons is ’n Seun gegee; Hy sal heers, en Hy sal genoem word: Wonderbare Raadsman, Magtige God, Ewige Vader, Vredevors. ***Jesaja 9:5***

Ons probleem is dat ons met Kersfees opnuut die vrede soek waarvan die Kersverhaal vertel, maar ons soek nie die Vredevors in ons lewe nie. ***Addison Leitch***

God verklaar sy liefde aan ons deur kameraadskap. Sy Seun word die weg waardeur ons tot sy vrede kan toetree, tot die ewige lewe toegang verkry, en van die beste raad voorsien word. Daarom word Hy Raadsman, Magtige en Ewige Vader, en Vredevors genoem. Is Hy dit al van jou lewe? As Hy nie die

ereplek in jou hart het nie, is jy verlore! Bedink hierdie saak en deel dit met die mense om jou, daar waar jy hierdie nuwe week se werk ingaan.

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 4

The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but as new branches sprout out from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants. ***Isaiah 11:1***

Salvation does not simply look back at the manger. It looks ahead to the freedom in which redeemed people stands. Therefore we have to be God's people. ***Leon Morris***

This promise also implies that Jesus wants to bring new life in you. He has been empowered by God to rule – allow Him to do what is best for you! All God's promises are sincere – embrace His love and share it with those around you. Today is going to claim its share of hard work; but always remember that you are precious in the eyes of the Lord!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 4

'n Takkie sal uitspruit uit die stomp van Isai, 'n loot uit sy wortels sal vrugte dra. ***Jesaja 11:1***

Verlossing kyk nie net terug na die krip nie. Dit kyk vooruit na die vryheid waarin die verloste staan. Daarom moet ons God se mense wees. ***Leon Morris***

Hierdie belofte beteken ook dat Jesus nuwe lewe in jou wil kom bewerkstellig. Hy het die volmag oor jou lewe – laat Hom dan toe om die beste vir jou te doen! God se beloftes is opreg, juis sodat jy hierdie verlossingsboodskap kan aanneem en dit na buite kan dra. Vandag gaan weer sy tol aan harde werk eis, maar weet dat jy baie kosbaar is in die oë van Jesus!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 5

The Lord says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times." ***Micah 5:2***

God's promises can be claimed through faith, hope and love. ***Augustine***

God's future planning was so well defined that He announced the town where Jesus would be born centuries in advance. He is a God Almighty, but also specialises in the smaller detail of day-to-day life. As in the past, He is still in

control of whatever happens in your life today. Trust in Him, smile and enjoy the work!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 5

Maar jy, Betlehem-Efrata, jy is klein onder die families van Juda, maar uit jou sal daar iemand kom wat aan My behoort en Hy sal in Israel regeer. Sy begin lê ver terug, in die gryse verlede! ***Miga 5:1***

God se beloftes kan opgeëis word deur geloof, hoop en liefde. ***Augustinus van Hippo***

God se beplanning was so ver vooruit dat Hy selfs die geboorteplek van Jesus eeue voor die gebeurtenis laat aankondig het. Hy is ’n God van groot dinge, maar spesialiseer in die klein detail van elke dag se swoeg en sweet. Net soos in die verlede is Hy ook vandag in beheer van dit wat in jou lewe gebeur. Vertrou Hom daarvoor, glimlag, en geniet die werk!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 6

The Lord says, “The time is coming when I will choose as king a righteous descendant of David. That king will rule wisely and do what is right and just throughout the land.” ***Jeremiah 23:5***

All of heaven waits to help those who discover the will of God and do it. ***J Robert Ashcroft***

I recently had the privilege to spend a few days with missionary friends in Zambia. What struck me most was their total dependence on God in respect of their daily needs; not once were these needs not met timeously and in abundance! The secret is dependence within the will of God. Similarly God meets your needs in His grace – accept this Gift with joy, and live with enthusiasm within His will today!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 6

Daar kom ’n tyd, sê die Here, dat Ek vir Dawid ’n regverdige spruit sal laat opskiet, ’n koning wat verstandig sal regeer. Hy sal die reg eerbiedig en regverdig regeer in sy land. ***Jeremia 23:5***

Die hele hemel is wagtend om hulle te help wat die wil van God ontdek en dit uitvoer. ***J Robert Ashcroft***

Ek het die voorreg gehad om ’n paar dae in Zambië met sending-vriende te kuier. Wat my veral opgeval het is hulle totale afhanklikheid van God ten opsigte van hulle daaglikse behoeftes, en nog nooit het God nie betyds in oorvloed voorsien nie. Die geheim is afhanklikheid binne die wil van God. Net

so bied God in sy genade ook sy voorsiening vir jou aan – aanvaar sy Kersgeskenk met vreugde, en leef met opgewondenheid binne sy wil vandag!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 7

Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion! Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you! He comes triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a donkey – on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ***Zechariah 9:9***

A little girl explained to a friend, “Christmas was that day when God came down the steps of heaven with a Baby in his arms.” ***Eugene Sterner***

God is visible at Christmas as the Keeper of promises. He is not only there to support and assist you, but more so to care for you as He holds your future in His hands. This gives us even more reason to rejoice in the Child who came as a baby to this world and be one with us. Live as a saved person to the honour of God in your hard work today and enjoy the weekend!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 7

Jubel, Sion! Juig, Jerusalem! Jou koning sal na jou toe kom. Hy is regverdig en hy is ’n oorwinnaar, hy is nederig en hy ry op ’n donkie, op die hingsvul van ’n donkie. ***Sagaria 9:9***

’n Dogtertjie het aan ’n maatjie verduidelik: "Kersfees is daardie dag toe God by die trappe van die hemel afgekom het met ’n Babatjie in sy arms." ***Eugene Sterner***

God is ook in Kersfees sigbaar as die Waarmaker van sy beloftes. Hy is nie net daar om jou te onderskraag en by te staan nie, maar ook om vir jou te sorg en jou toekoms in sy hand te hou. Daarom kan ons juig en bly wees oor die Kind wat as baba na ons gekom het om soos ons te word. Leef dus as verloste kind van God tot sy eer deur jou harde werk vandag, en deur die naweek!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 8

… In days to come his people will understand this clearly. ***Jeremiah 23:20***

Try all the roads to peace and well being that you can think of, and you will find that not one will take you there – except Christ's road. ***Matthew Arnold***

God does not allow any of His promises to remain unfulfilled. He knows us, that we are merely dust, and encourages our seeking minds with support and peace that can only come from Him. Will the road that you are on eventually bring you to Jesus? You still have today to change your route – tomorrow may be too late! Make this last working week the most important of the year 2005 and smile!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 8

... Daar kom 'n tyd dat julle dit alles goed sal verstaan. ***Jeremia 23:20***

Probeer al die paaie na vrede en welsyn wat jy kan bedink, en jy sal vind dat daar geen pad is wat jou daar sal uitbring nie, behalwe Christus se pad. ***Matthew Arnold***

God laat nie toe dat een van sy beloftes nie waar word nie. Hy ken ons, dat ons maar stof is, en bemoedig ons soekende gemoed met ondersteuning en vrede wat net van Hom af kom. Sal die pad wat jy nou volg, jou by Jesus uitbring? Jy het nog vandag tyd om reg te maak – môre kan dalk te laat wees! Maak hierdie laaste week die belangrikste van die jaar 2005, en glimlag!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 9

Afterwards I will pour out my Spirit on everyone: your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your old people will have dreams, and your young people will see visions. ***Joel 2:28***

The Son of God became a man so that we can become children of God. ***CS Lewis***

In fulfilling His promises, God sent his Spirit as a Tutor to encourage us to live through His truth. Is your life under command of the Holy Spirit? Can those who shared this year's work with you, testify that they can see God's presence in your conduct of life? Allow Him to control your life more and more, and continue to work hard and honestly!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 9

Wanneer dit alles gebeur het, sal Ek my Gees laat kom op al die mense, julle seuns en julle dogters sal as profete optree, julle oumense sal drome droom, julle jong mans sal visioene sien. ***Joël 2:28***

Die Kind van God het mens geword sodat ons God se kinders kan word. ***CS Lewis***

Om sy beloftes waar te maak, het God sy Gees aan ons gegee sodat ons in die waarheid onderrig kan word, en deur die waarheid kan lewe. Leef jy al onder beheer van die Heilige Gees? Kan die mense wat hierdie jaar saam met jou gewerk het, getuig dat hulle Hom in jou lewenswandel kon sien? Laat jou lewe steeds meer en meer deur Hom beheer word, en werk hard en eerlik!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Part 10

His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now on until the end of time. The Lord Almighty is determined to do all this. ***Isaiah 9:7***

At Christmas time people are so sentimental that they almost act in the way God intended them to do. ***Edgar Guest***

God's constancy is everlasting. You do not even need to look at the Bible to find evidence thereof, but simply at the believer who is committed in his or her life to God. Will Jesus see your commitment to Him in the way you dispose of the beggar at your front gate that asks for something to eat or drink? Honour Jesus in your work today by the example you set!

Leë beloftes? – Deel 10

Sy heerskappy sal uitbrei, en Hy sal vir altyd vrede en voorspoed bring. Hy sal op die troon van Dawid sit en oor sy koninkryk regeer. Hy sal dié koninkryk vestig en in stand hou deur reg en geregtigheid, van nou af en vir altyd. Daarvoor sal die onverdeelde trou van die Here die Almagtige sorg. ***Jesaja 9:6***

Met Kersfees is mense so sentimenteel dat hulle amper optree soos God hulle bedoel het om te wees. ***Edgar Guest***

God se trou staan altyd vas. Mens hoef nie net na die Bybel te kyk om dit raak te sien nie, maar ook na elke gelowige wat binne die wil van God lewe. Sal Jesus dit in jou optrede kan sien teenoor daardie bedelaar wat by jou voorhek kom vra vir 'n stukkie brood, of iets om te drink? Verheerlik Hom in jou werk vandag deur die voorbeeld wat jy uitstraal!

NatureBound Services / Bediening

Empty promises? – Conclusion

She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger – there was no room for them to stay in the inn. ***Luke 2:7***

Those who do not experience Christmas in their heart are seeking in vain for it in gift papers beneath a Christmas tree. ***Roy L Smith***

Empty promises? Never! Jesus not only came as a baby in the manger to paint a perfect Christmas picture – He came as eternal Redeemer to free us from eternal doom. At the end of this working year the question remains: What is your relationship with the Lord? If you should die in an accident this holiday, will we meet again in heaven?

God willing, we will resume this service on 09 January 2006. Till then, may you have a blessed Christmastide, enjoy a good rest period and live as a Christian!

Leë beloftes? – Afsluiting

Sy het haar Eerstelingseun in die wêreld gebring en Hom in doeke toegedraai en in ’n krip neergelê, omdat daar vir hulle geen plek in die herberg was nie. ***Lukas 2:7***

Hulle wat Kersfees nie in die hart het nie, soek dit tevergeefs in geskenkpapier onder ’n Kersboom. ***Roy L Smith***

Leë beloftes? Nooit! Jesus het nie net as babatjie gekom om ’n mooi Kersfees toneel te skilder nie – Hy was juis hier om as ewige Verlosser ons skuld op Hom te neem en ons vry te maak van die vloek van ewige verdoemenis. Aan die einde van hierdie werksjaar sluit ons af met die vraag: Hoe staan jou saak met die Heiland? As jy gedurende hierdie vakansie sou sterf in ’n ongeluk, sal ons mekaar in die hemel raakloop?

As die Here se wil daarby is, begin ons weer op 09 Januarie 2006. Tot dan, ’n geseënde Christusfees, rus lekker, en lééf jou Christenskap!

END / EINDE,