

Luke 13:31-35, "A Promised Future"

- ✎ Promises matter! Promises and especially promises kept make us like God, God is a promise making and promise keeping God. We understand that God created all that there is, but do we understand that God has created our future as well? All of humanity, whether lovers or haters of God, already have a future created for them: Heaven and eternity will be a place of fulfilled promises made by God. Hell will also be a place of fulfilled promises: "All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. "But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." Revelation 21:7-8. So, promises fix the future in both directions, so we want to make sure we are on the right side of them.
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1. Israel would have done well to pay attention to the promises of God.

- ✓ Luke 13:31-35 "your house will be left to you" = "you're on your own, I'm out," absolutely the worst thing that can happen to us in this life is not to forsake God but for God to forsake us. You can hear the finality in what Jesus is saying, "Your house is left to you." This promise began to take effect some thirty years after Jesus' death and resurrection. The Jews in A.D. 66, revolted against Rome. They had revolted against oppressors before, but they had never done it on their own, this time their house had been left to them! God's wrath is a constant, not just a future event: Romans 1:18, Romans 1:24, 26, 28, the wrath of abandonment. Why are things getting worse and worse for us here in the states and Canada? God is abandoning us. The Wrath of abandonment is a super serious thing, the Jews found that out the hard way. God wrote Israel's history in advance through His promises. Paul believed those promises and seeing where Israel was headed wrote Romans 9:1-2, 4-5. Deuteronomy 28:15-29 was a promise that God made if they failed to listen to Him, He kept it! Looking forward into this living Hell is why Jesus laments over this city! in Luke 19:41-44.

2. Jesus makes a second promise to Israel, though.

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You want to know whether or not God keeps His promises, when you place your faith in Him, you are betting your life and eternity that God is telling you the truth. If God has made promises to Israel and then has turned around and cancelled them, what hope do we have? God is a promise keeping God, writing our future with His promises, "And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment." John 3:36.
