

The Prince of Promise -#2

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The Bible says (John 14:3), "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."



When General Douglas MacArthur was forced to retreat from the Philippines during WWII, he declared the famous words, "I shall return." On October 20, 1944, MacArthur made good on his promise when he landed with his troops on the Philippine island of Leyte where he proclaimed, "I have returned." According to one account, there are 3,573 promises in the Bible. The word promise itself occurs over 50 times in the King James Version. Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), the "Prince of Preachers," wrote regarding promise, "...the sun never grows weary of shining, nor a stream of flowing, it is God's nature to keep His promises. Therefore, go immediately to His throne and say, 'Do as You promised.'"

The one great promise that has not yet been fulfilled is the return of our Lord Jesus. This is the living hope we have, that when He returns He will restore His kingdom on earth as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

This September we remember the 70th anniversary of the historical Incheon Landing (September 15-19, 1950) under General Douglas MacArthur. On Sunday, June 25th, the North Korean army invaded South Korea and tried to capture Seoul. It was a time of turmoil, panic, and confusion, with a number of casualties. Families had to leave their homes with whatever they could take with them to flee from the invading Communists. The ambitious Incheon Landing Operation, which involved some 75,000 troops and 261 naval vessels, was a critical turning of the tide of war. Decisive victory was in sight as our brave soldiers marched upward to North Korea until they were met by the Chinese People's Volunteer Army, resulting in a stalemate that created the division of Korea at the 38th parallel.

During three long bloody years of the war, 33,686 U.S. troops gave their lives in costly sacrifice for the freedom and liberty of South Korea: It bears repeating, "Freedom is not Free." On July 27, 1953 an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, Korea, which was a truce, not a peace treaty. Thus many Koreans still long for the day of peace between the divided nation. But peace on earth is still temporal. We continue to pray with the living hope that when Jesus, the Prince of Peace, returns, we will have eternal peace in Christ.

What promises are you hoping for in life? The promise of riches, marriage, job security, presentable kids, a comfortable house? These things will not last. The only promise that lasts is the promise our Lord Jesus made to us, "I shall return." Our Lord ALWAYS keeps His promises.