# God’s Promise - Shock and Awe

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jonathan@stegatrops.co.uk

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# God's Promise – Shock and Awe.

## *Setup*

*AB staging?*
*a hollow 'screen' made with wooden uprights and a top with the action, in the “chancel” happening behind it. lighting to be turned up and down...*
*Or central area with seating arranged around*
*Children either in/by the Vestry, or sitting by the organ, with adult prompters.*

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## *Opening up.*

*Teenager sitting at video game console…*
*Kids in lines making space invader shapes.*
*Box with hole seemingly moving to 2's command - ball pool balls been tossed at kids – falling down dead etc.*

**2** Hey ____(name). Look at what I just bought.
It's a version of the 1978 classic arcade game – Space invaders…

**1** Coooool…
But I can go one better than that…
I've just bought a well good game. Mine's based on a classic too, but with some wicked new features. And it's got everything… galactic conquest, unlimited control, unique interface.
Do you fancy giving it a go on your big telly."

**2** Yeah OK - what's the rating?

**1** Well there's some gory bits, so it's a 18 – but my dad doesn't seem to mind.

**2** You got the cheat codes for it?

**1** Done better than that, I got the walkthrough and completed it!

**2** Fantastic… so what's it called?

**1** 'God's Promise'

**2** God's Promise!(screwed up face) Sounds lame!

**1** Nah! You get to play **God** and (big expressive arms) conquer the world.

**2** (still not sure)"Okay … **that** sounds better – I think."

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## *First cut scene*

**2** (Strokes chin)“So how do we start?
If I'm playing the part of God
and I'm going to conquer the world then…
I've got to show some real power . . show everybody who's boss.
So I guess I go in all guns blazing (pretend gun action) **Shock & Awe** (high reverb on amp?)

I can just imagine it ...” (bulb? - start sending the kids in)

(heroic Napoleon kind of stance) Send in the troops (Sousa "Stars and Stripes Forever”), short range firearms” (makes weapon noises)

Ooh... we'll need helicopters... (toy Helicopter at church ... prop?)
& bombers... (appropriate noises) A great big battle scene!”
(kids roll in, guns blazing, war noises, people crying, girl asking for her mummy?)

**1** “**Stop** that right there!” (kids freeze ... lights fade, kids walk off)

**1** “No, you need to think outside the box!
You're God remember, and God's power is not like human power, and more importantly it's based at 0AD... (condescending) no guns then!”

**2** “Ahh... I forgot about that...
Right that’s a tricky one (reverts to stroking chin – talking to self)... Lets see, I'm God... a different sort of power... Okay, I've got an idea!”

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## *Second cut scene*

**2** “How about this…
shock and…
umm…
supernatural awe? (Flight of the Valkyries)

(music fades) I can just imagine it ...
Thunder and Lightening (waits, but no sound effect)…
I said Thunder and Lightening (**Thunder noises** – flash of bright light)

And…
Huge armies of Battling angels (Dies Irae from the Verdi Requiem - cue large “**battle angels**” - return of Mike & Mark? – racing round the church swishing plastic/wooden swords – music fade)…
(send the kids in) There’ll be fierce fighting…
People Trembling…
sobbing …
hiding their faces …
and falling down to the floor.” (people falling down outnumbering people trembling)

**1** “**Stop** that right there!” (kids freeze ... lights fade, kids walk off)

**2** “Is that not the way to win this game?”

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## *Third cut scene*

(NO1's voice is strong but peaceful)

**1** You just don't get it do you!
That's not the way that God conquers the world.
(growing excitement) His way is really
completely different from how humans would do it...

(again strong & peaceful)There is death… (good pauses)suffering… shock and awe...
but it all starts with a baby." (cue standard stable scene)

**2** "A **Baby**?"(growing sense of incredulity)

(use up excess children as participants in the nativity scene – including possible others that may turn up on the day – A teenage mum & her worried/nervous husband, donkey, etc.; Quite quick, **Everyone** knows the standard stable scene ... It's there to make a point, but I think that the point stands better for not being addressed, children brought in and the lights turned up with kids in position maybe?)

**1** "... in a stable ..."

**2** "A **Stable**?"

**1** "With shepherds ..."

**2** "**Shepherds**?"

**1** "Poor and helpless."

**2** (now dismissive) "I **don't** believe you, (pointing) you play God... as a **Baby**?"

*Minor Pause*

**1** "Here's the walkthrough! Check it for yourself" 1 hands 2 the 'walkthrough' (bible)

(fade to black)

*End with "See him lying on a bed of straw"*

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