



... set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. [1 Peter 1:13](#)

HOPE

The promised child is a promised king. He is the fulfillment of all David was and yet could not be. From the line of David comes The Bright and Morning Star. In the busy times, in the moments of satisfaction and frustration, in our praise and lament, there is a hope. The King will be revealed in the fullness of the Kingdom.

The Hope icon has two triangles overlaid, that with only slight motion will provide the star of David.

We await in advent and hope in all seasons, firmly on the coming King, Jesus.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

“Hope is not so much an attitude to be cultivated as a reality to be recognized. To set our hope is to believe the gospel.”

Edmund Clowney

The Surety of Hope | eternal

Many times hope is understood as a guess, forecast or feeling regarding some future experience that will be an improvement to the present circumstances in which we find ourselves. It is often a foggy and optimistic idea that things will get better. We may turn to money, family, relationships, work or tradition to bear the entire weight of our hope. This sort of hope, in circumstances or temporal things, is fleeting and crumbles easily. Biblical hope is vastly different. It is fixed and rooted in the greatness of God. It is a hope that rests on the promise of a person and his character. Our hope is assured because we hope in Jesus Christ.

The Desire of the Heart | internal

Knowing that hope is anchored in the character of God is meaningless, unless we engage it with faith. Hope is embraced by faith. But how do we have a heart of hope? We must be led by the promise of Christ ([Hebrews 6:19-20](#)), led by his presence ([Ephesians 2:4-7](#)), and led by the surety of his return ([Titus 2:11-14](#)). He is our high priest, who went to the Father on our behalf. We find hope in the embrace of his redemption. We remember that he loved us while we were still sinners; and we receive hope in his presence with us then, now and forever. When we consider his coming again we set our mind on things above; and we accept that our life is not our story but Christ's story. We then receive a heart of hope through faith.

The Life of Hope | external

Our story is consumed in Jesus' story. Jesus was secure in the Father, which enabled him to sacrifice his life for us. When we have hope through faith in Christ's character, we are secure in the love of the Father. We can, for the first

time in our life, truly be free to love. Every other time we have loved we looked for something in return. But when our hope is secure in Christ we love like Jesus. The surety of hope in Christ allows the sacrifice of a life lived well. Our labor of love is not in vain. Our lives become the evidence of true hope to those around us, to those who know nothing of security and lasting hope ([1 Peter 3:15](#) & [1 Corinthians 15:58](#)).

RESPONSE

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” [Lamentations 3:22-24](#)

Reflection Questions

We have our hope assured in Christ because of who the Scriptures tell us he is. Read [Revelation 22:13](#), [Colossians 1:17](#), [Psalm 139:7-12](#) and [John 1:3](#). Discuss what these Scriptures tell us about the person we put our hope in.

What do you typically turn to for hope? What does this tell you about your beliefs regarding who Jesus is?

The surety of hope in God allows the sacrifice of a life lived well. What risk can you now take to share the hope of the Gospel with someone who is in your life?

Family Table Talk

What do you hope for/will happen?

What are you sure of/will happen?

How does being sure of things, help you risk loving and serving others well?

Advent Action

When we are secure in the hope of Christ, we can live a life that truly loves others. Along with this type of love also comes sacrifice. Consider what your family can sacrifice, in order to reflect the hope you have to others around you?

Memory Verse

[1 Peter 1:13](#) & [1 Peter 3:15](#)

MORE RESOURCES

“The very essence of hope is freely to expect all the graces necessary for salvation as free gifts from God.”

Thomas Merton

Articles & Blogs

[Words of Hope for Those Struggling with Depression](#) - Edward T. Welch article

[Six Important Links to the Meaning of Hope](#) - blog post by Sam Crabtree (Desiring God)

[Born to Raise the Sons of Earth](#) - blog post by Nancy Guthrie (The Gospel Coalition)

Sermons

[What is Hope?](#) - Sermon by John Piper (with transcript)

Hymns

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#) - Miles Before Sleep (Terra Nova Church)

[O Come O Come Emmanuel](#) - Emergence Church

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for
the morning. [Psalm 130:5-6](#)