

# HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Isaiah 40:28-31



## SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we started a new series on Advent as we prepare our hearts by reflecting on the coming of Jesus and look forward to the coming of Jesus once again. Pastor Phil preached on the idea of biblical hope being different than the hope we typically subscribe to. Sometimes, our hope can hinge upon our ability to change our own situations, and we tend to temper our hope and expectations based upon how likely we think what we hope for will actually happen. But biblical hope is different in that it does not hinge upon our ability to change our circumstances, but rather on an unchanging God.

Biblical hope is different from optimism. It is not based upon circumstances, but it's based on the person of Jesus - on a faithful and eternal God who holds the whole universe in the palm of His hands. We find all throughout scripture that there were many people who placed their hope in the Lord even if their situations did not seem to be changing for the better.

This is a hope that is battle-tested and weathered, forged in the fires that ultimately produces a hope and deep resolve that God is faithful and near and worthy to be trusted. The message of hope appeals more to the marginalized, oppressed, afflicted, and destitute. And if we find ourselves on the opposite side of the coin (being able to control our own destiny), we have to be aware of all the potential pitfalls that face us - a hampered imagination for heavenly things, a distorted vision for our destination, and a subdued hunger and thirst for something greater.

But Jesus has come to call us to a greater hope - may we find a more glorious hope than we could ever have imagined in Christ Jesus, our Lord.



## OUTLINE

1

### BIBLICAL HOPE

Biblical hope is not optimism. It can be present even when things are not getting better. It's not based upon circumstances, but on the faithfulness of God. When we hinge our hope on circumstances, we will be let down - but when we hinge our hope on an unfailing God, we will not be put to shame.

2

### EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL HOPE

Consider David (Psalm 27:13-14), the different psalms (Psalm 71:4-5; Psalm 130), and even the example of Israel as ways people in the Bible continued to hold onto hope despite worsening circumstances.

3

### DANGERS OF SUBDUED HOPE

There's a trade-off we make when we increasingly rely on our own strength and resources. We must be careful for the pitfalls of a hampered imagination for heavenly things, a distorted vision for our destination, and a subdued hunger and thirst for something greater.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What is something that you have hoped for (or are currently hoping for) that didn't /hasn't come to pass? How did you feel?

2

Have we at times become cynical or jaded and try to suppress our hope (whether for personal issues or for our world) so that we won't be disappointed? Share an example.

3

Why is it necessary for us as believers to hold on to the biblical hope?

4

What is our attitude towards biblical hope? Does it ever seem like we can't really imagine what we ought to hope for? Do we suffer from a subdued hope?

5

Are there specific things in our lives where we've been discouraged/lost hope and need to ask God to reignite hope in those areas?



## BIG IDEA

When Jesus came into the world two thousand years ago, he came to bring hope that God had not left nor forsaken his people. That same message of hope speaks to us today - that we have a God who has not abandoned us, but is preparing a home for us so that we can enter into His rest. May our hope be placed in Him and not in our fickle circumstances. May we put our hope in a God who will not put us to shame.