

Hope Promised - Jeremiah 29:10–14; Romans 15:4; Hebrews 10:23

If we're honest, "hope" is one of those words we toss around without thinking. Have you ever said? "I hope this works out." Or "I hope things get better." Or "I hope tomorrow is easier than today." I think we all have. But that kind of hope is unstable. It rises and falls with circumstances. It depends on outcomes we can't control. It's the kind of hope that keeps us checking our phones, or constantly looking at our watches, refreshing our email, or replaying conversations in our heads - because deep down, we're not sure how things will turn out.

Biblical hope, however, is much different. Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. Biblical hope is not crossing your fingers and wishing for the best. Biblical hope is **confident trust rooted in the faithfulness of God.**

As we begin this four-week journey toward Palm Sunday, we're starting where Scripture always starts: with the promises of God. Before hope is ever felt, it is spoken. Before hope is ever experienced, it is revealed. Hope comes from God, who makes promises, and keeps them.

Hope Is Born in God's Faithfulness

Read Jeremiah 29:10–14

When we hear Jeremiah 29, many of us immediately recognize verse 11: *"For I know the plans I have for you..."* But we forget where God's people were when He said those words. They were in exile. Far from home. Under foreign rule. Discouraged. Confused. Wondering if God had forgotten them. And in that moment - into their situation and their pain - God speaks a promise: *"When seventy years are completed... I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise."*

Seventy years. That's a lifetime. Here's the thing. God knows their situation. He knows their struggles. He doesn't deny the hardship. He doesn't pretend exile isn't painful. He doesn't say, "Cheer up, everything's fine." He doesn't give them some meaningless and motivational mumbo jumbo. Instead, He anchors their hope by reminding them of His long-term purposes. What can we learn from this? First, the hope God gives is firm. It can be trusted. Second, hope doesn't deny our reality. It helps us understand it better. And thirdly, hope declares that God is still working!

Some of you are much like the Israelites, you're living in your own kind of exile right now. Maybe you're waiting for a diagnosis. Or you're praying for a prodigal. Or you're carrying a burden no one else sees. Some of you may even be wondering if God still has a plan for you.

If so, the words from this passage help us understand that **God's promises are not canceled by our current season.** Waiting does not mean abandonment. Delay does not mean denial. God says, *"I know the plans I have for you."* Not "I'm figuring them out." Not "I'm improvising as I go." He says, *"I know."* Believing this is where HOPE begins!

Hope Is Sustained by God's Word

Read Romans 15:4

If you remember from our previous series, the Bible is not just a book filled with information. It is part of God's plan, and He uses it for our formation. The Scriptures shape us. They strengthen us. They encourage us. And they train us. If you want to know what God has promised you, read your Bible! When you read about the promises already fulfilled in Scripture, it becomes fuel for the hope that God gives us, today.

When God parted the Red Sea - He was showing you He can make a way in impossible situations. When God fed Elijah with ravens - He was showing you He can provide in impossible places. When God raised Lazarus - He was showing you He can bring life where death has moved in.

The Bible can be a lot of different things for us but know this; The Bible is a record of God's faithfulness so that when your hope feels weak, you can look back and remember: **He has never failed His people, and He is not going to start with you.**

Sometimes we just need to return to the Word. Not for information, but for oxygen. For a fresh breath from God. Scripture consistently conveys messages of hope. Hope is cultivated through engagement with Scripture. Scripture helps keep hope alive.

Hope Holds Fast to God's Character

The writer of Hebrews says, (**Read Hebrews 10:23**)

We must hold onto hope. Not because life is predictable, we know that's not true, but because **God is faithful**. Remember, hope is not anchored in outcomes. Hope is anchored in the One who never changes. This same writer offered these words about our Lord, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" (**Hebrews 13:8**)

Circumstances shift. Emotions rise and fall. People disappoint. Plans unravel. But God remains faithful. When we speak about Biblical truth, this is one you cannot miss! When you can't see the way forward – God is faithful. When prayers seem unanswered – God is still faithful. When the future feels uncertain – God will always be faithful.

Hope is not a feeling you chase. Hope is not dreaming of something better. Hope is **the confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises because He is faithful.**

CONCLUSION

As we begin this journey toward Easter, we start with this simple but life-changing truth:

Hope begins with God's promises. Not with our feelings. Not with our circumstances. Not with our predictions about the future.

God always keeps His word—even when fulfillment takes time.

So, hold fast. Don't let go. Don't give up. Don't lose hope. Why? Because God is the promise maker and the promise keeper. He won't forget you or break a promise. And our hope begins with His promises.