



Hope Promised!

Isaiah 9:6-7

Sermon given on December 24, 2020

Calvary Chapel French Valley

Christmas Eve Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Hope Promised!

Isaiah 9:6-7

Opening Comments

- Welcome to our first Christmas eve in our new place
- Tomorrow is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus
- For most people Christmas is a great time of year
- It is a time of hope – usually not a real and permanent hope

Hope: the confident expectation of coming good.

- You can hope to receive something you want for Christmas
- You can hope that your Christmas dinner is good
- You can hope that there will be no family drama
- You can hope everyone will be healthy for Christmas
- You can hope to see the grandkids
- You can hope someone gives you a fruitcake – just me?!
- Christmas is a celebration of hope
- Not in any of those things I just mentioned – except maybe fruitcake?!
- No, the hope Christmas promises is an everlasting hope
- It is not a hope in things or events or people
- The source of this hope is God Himself **Romans 15:13**

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- It is hope in the person of Jesus Christ
- It is that hope upon which a true Christian life is built **Hebrews 6:19-20**

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- Turn to **Luke 2** – will read the Christmas Story
- Within this story is the promise of hope – a hope that doesn't disappoint, cannot fade, or be stolen from us
- What is that hope and what does it do for us?
- First, let's pray and then we will get into that

Teaching

- **Hope Promised!**
- Read along with me as I read the Christmas Story
- **Luke 2:1-14**
- This event was so momentous that God sent a multitude of the heavenly host to proclaim praise
- Look again at verse 11
- **Luke 2:11**
- Turn to **Isaiah 9**
- Luke records the birth of Christ
- In the city of David = the city King David was born in
- The birth of Christ was not a random event or afterthought by God
- It was first alluded to in **Genesis 3:14-15** after the Fall when God cursed Satan

So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

- The Child who was born ‘a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’ in Luke 2:11 is ‘her Seed’ in Genesis 3:15
 - The whole Old Testament points to this radical birth
 - But none so appropriate to the season as the one found here in Isaiah
 - The context for our verses in Isaiah 9 is found a couple of chapters earlier
 - King Ahaz of Judah was attacked by two kings from the north
 - God sent Isaiah to tell Ahaz not to worry about those two kings – God was going to deal with them
 - To prove that Ahaz could trust God’s word, Ahaz was told to ask God for a miracle – any miracle he wanted – Ahaz refused **Isaiah 7:14**
- Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**
- ‘Immanuel’ = God with us
 - And then in chapter 9 – a text we regularly see at this time of year
 - **Isaiah 9:6-7**
 - This is the Seed prophesied in Genesis 3 and the Savior, Christ the Lord born in Luke 2

- This is both a prophecy and a promise
 - ‘unto us’ – for all of God’s people – then, now, and in the future
 - On that cold winter night – hope was born
 - The promise of hope was now available to anyone who would simply believe
 - What is that hope?
 - Remember – Hope: the confident expectation of coming good.
 - Hope looks into the future and sees good
 - This is where it is hard for some people
 - They view of the future holds no hope of coming good
 - As hard as this might be to hear – that is because they are looking at the future through the wrong lens
 - If they are looking through the lens of **Past Experience** – they develop a ‘**What was – will be!**’ perspective on the future
 - Whatever happened to them in the past will be repeated in the future
 - Or they might look through the lens of **Current Circumstances** – they develop a ‘**What is – will not change!**’ perspective on the future
 - All they can see is the pain of their circumstances and don’t see how they can do anything about
 - They might believe that God could do something about their circumstances, but they probably aren’t convinced that He will
 - There is no hope in either of those perspectives
 - There is a third lens through which we can look at the future and be filled with hope – **Biblical Faith**
 - It is not enough to just have faith – the word faith simply means what someone believes to be true
 - atheists have faith, Buddhists have faith, socialists have faith
 - They all believe something to be true and then attempt to live according to that faith
 - But, for faith to produce a permanent hope, it must be based on something permanent and true – only God’s Word can do that
- Romans 10:17**
- So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
- In Romans 15:13 we read earlier – “God of hope”
 - The very reality of God is a source of hope

- And it is in His nature to produce hope in humans
- The celebration of the birth of Christ is about hope
- The heavenly host proclaimed on the night of His birth **Luke 2:14**
“**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!**”
- The greatest need that anyone will ever have is to be reconciled to God
- We were created in God’s image so that we could be in an intimate. Communion fellowship with Him
- Sin robbed each of us of that divine privilege – forever
- But then God acted in mercy to make a way **John 3:16**
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- If you believe in God and His Word, your hope is in heaven
- But not just in heaven **John 10:10**
The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.
- I also have hope in this life – the confident expectation of coming good in this life
- Why, because God promised it **Romans 8:28**
And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.
- Through faith we have a permanent hope that God is providentially working to produce good in our life for His glory, to bless others, and to grow faith
- Isaiah said, ‘Unto to you is given...’
 - It is a promise – earlier I read **Romans 15:13**
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Notice in that verse ‘in believing’ – your part is faith
- Through faith, the God of hope produces joy and peace
- If we know and believe God and His Word, the result is hope which then produces joy and peace
- For example **Hebrews 13:5b**
For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
- ‘He Himself’ = God – Is that true? Emphatically, YES!
- ‘never leave’ – I can never be alone – God is with me
- No matter what my past experiences or mistakes – God is with me
- No matter my current circumstances – God is with me

- That gives me peace **Psalm 23:4**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

- Also says, ‘never...forsake you’ – will never abandon you
- God never stops caring for you – He is providentially arranging heaven, earth, events, and people to bring good into your life **Psalm 23:5-6**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

- That fills me with joy – joy that cannot be taken from me
 - The story of the birth of Christ is a story of hope – hope promised not just to believers, but to the whole world
 - Hebrews teaches us that that hope is an anchor for our soul
 - Faith is the chain that connects us to the anchor of hope
 - The result is peace and joy
 - If someone is sensing a lack of peace or joy – problem might be the lens they are viewing the future through
 - The Bible is filled with promises meant to give us hope
 - Find them and believe them – Apostle Paul said **1 Corinthians 13:13** **And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**
 - Faith is what you believe about God and His Word
 - Hope is how you view the future based upon what you believe about God and His Word
 - Love is what you do based upon how you view the future based upon what you believe about God and His Word
 - The birth of Christ is a story of hope – promised to all of humanity but accessible only by faith **Isaiah 9:6a**
- For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...**
- God sent Jesus for us – for each of us – for you – so that you will have hope
 - What a good God He is!
 - **Pray!**
 - **Have a hope-filled Christmas!**