

# H O P E

## Knowing What to Expect from Whom

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:13

For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

### *I. Introduction*

Too often we get stymied in our spiritual growth because of inaccurate or vague understandings about critically important biblical concepts. By accepting fuzzy or incomplete definitions from our natural vocabulary, we miss the dynamic power of many of the promises God extends to us.

Hope is one of the most fabulous provisions God has given to us to get us through difficult times. But if we misunderstand what hope is, or where it comes from, we will likely miss out on it -- just when we need it the most.

Hope, like love and faith, is an issue of choice not coincidence. It is not merely a feeling which comes or goes on its own. How then can we cultivate it and exercise it so that it is there when things seem hopeless?

The answer, of course, can be found in the Bible. For the next few weeks, we will look at numerous scriptures about hope in order to fully understand its nature and its dynamics.

## II. Some Old Testament Definitions

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A.

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### *Yachal*

(to wait -- patiently; to stay in; to "hang in there")

1. My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I wait for Thy word. Psalm 119:81

2. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."  
Lamentations 3:24

B.

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### *Chacah*

(to flee for protection; to confide in; to put trust in; to take refuge in)

1. As for God, His way is blameless; the word of the Lord is tested; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him. 2 Samuel 22:31

2. For my eyes are toward Thee, O God, the Lord; in Thee I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless. Psalm 141:8

3. The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him. Nahum 1:7

C.

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### *Machaceh*

(a shelter, a place of refuge, a defense)

1. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

2. Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8

D.

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### *Tiqua*

(a cord attached to something; a connecting thread)

1. My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. Psalm 62:5

2. "And there is hope for your future," declares the Lord, "And their children shall return to their own territory." Jeremiah 31:17

### *III. Some New Testament References*

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#### A.

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Hope Looks at Unseen Things,  
Not at Visible Things.

1. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Romans 8:24-25

2. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

#### B.

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Hope resides in promises,  
not circumstances.

1. Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:12

2. In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil.

Hebrews 6:17-19

#### C.

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Hope Flourishes  
in Hopeless Situations.

1. In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb. Romans 4:18-19

2. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:3-5

3. For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4