

PPT “Hope Is At The Heart Of Christmas”

The Heart of Christmas Series - Week 1

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"The Christian hope is the hope which has seen everything and endured everything, and has still not despaired, because it believes in God. The Christian hope is not hope in the human spirit, in human goodness, in human endurance, in human achievement; the Christian hope is hope in the power of God." --William Barclay, The Letter to the Romans 12:12 – “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” (NIV)

Jesus’ arrival on the earth was the fulfillment of a prophecy spoken hundreds of years ago.

Isaiah 9:2-7

**2-3 The people who walked in darkness. Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation
And increased its joy; They rejoice before You
According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.**

**4-5 For you have broken the chains that have bound your people
and lifted off the heavy bar across their shoulders, the rod the oppressor used
against them. You have shattered all their bondage, just as you did when
Midian’s armies were defeated. Every boot of marching troops and every uniform caked
with blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. *TPT***

**6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

This passage makes two major statements.

First: It is an acknowledgement of the brokenness and darkness that surrounded Israel due to sin and corruption.

Second: The hope of the birth of a Messiah who would one day make all things right.

The book of Matthew also reminds us of Isaiah’s writings.

Matthew 1:18-23

18-19 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20-21 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

22-23 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

1. THE PRESENCE OF DARKNESS THREATENS OUR HOPE

2. GOD’S PRESENCE HAS COME TO GIVE US HOPE

HOPE REQUIRES PATIENCE

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

AGAVE PLANT ALSO KNOWN AS CENTURY PLANT

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

3. AT THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS IS HOPE

- No matter what you are facing in life right now, anything is possible through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Challenge:

- Consider the way God has been faithful in the past to give you hope for the present and future.