

HOPE IS COMING DEVOTIONAL

By Madeleine Wiedemann

WEEK 2

HOPE IS HERE FOR US AND ALWAYS WAS

“In that day the heir to David’s throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.”

Isaiah 11:10 (NLT)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.”

Titus 2:11-14 (NLT)

“He will not lose hope or courage; he will establish justice on the earth. Distant lands eagerly wait for his teaching.”

Isaiah 42:4 (GNT)

“You are my refuge and my shield; your word is my source of hope.”

Psalms 119:114 (NLT)

“This letter is from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, appointed by the command of God our Savior and Christ Jesus, who gives us hope.”

1 Timothy 1:1 (NLT)

It can be tricky to think deeply about hope because it’s become the domain of well-meaning platitudes and hallmark cards. But what the world means when it splashes hope across a gold embossed Christmas card and what Jesus was holding out are two very different things. Worldly hope is rooted in situations, things and people, all of which are inherently unreliable and fallible. It is just a wishful feeling without certainty that will disappoint. But hope from God is a confident expectation in what God will do (Hebrews 11:1) because it relies on a sure, unchanging and powerful God.

Jesus’ coming was prophesied as the answer to our state of hopelessness: throughout the bible, God wove the promise of a saviour who would come to bring us hope; that was always His plan and purpose (see Isaiah 11:10, Jeremiah 29:11). Jesus was prophesied as our Hope, and He is still our Hope today.

Even Jesus’ name was a promise of Hope. Emmanuel means God with us, and there is nothing more hope-filled than the promise that God came down to be with us and remains with us always. We can never be alone when we allow God to live in and through us.

There’s a ‘now, but not yet’ aspect to the Hope Jesus brings. Yes, we can now experience the surpassing hope that we are loved and created, but we also long for a future where we will see the brokenness of this world healed. Jesus is also this promise of a hopeful future to come. Titus 2 brings these two realities into contrast; Jesus has already come, but our hope in His second coming can allow us to live full of hope for an even better future while we exist in this broken world. Jesus’ coming gives us hope based on the sound, historical reality of God coming into our world, and the reality of what he has done in the past guarantees us seeing the future He promises come to pass, that’s true hope.

REFLECTIONS

- *Do you know that God promised and planned Hope for you before you were a twinkle in your parent’s eyes?*
- *What would it look like for you to accept that Hope has entered the world once and for always?*
- *What does it mean to live with hope in what Jesus has already done and a confident awareness that there is more to come?*
- *What hopelessness do you struggle with? How can you apply these realities of God’s promises to change your perspective?*

CHALLENGE

As you write Christmas cards, why not include a bible verse about hope or a prayer or an encouragement to live with hope to the people you are speaking over this Christmas season.