

Christmas Hope in the Wilderness

I. The Hope is _____ in the Bible.

Neg. this hope is not mere _____ or _____.

Pos. This hope is the joyful _____ and _____ of good flowing from the gospel.

It is rooted in God's _____ in Christ.
Cf. Col.1:23,27; Eph.1:18

It is rooted in _____ in God's Word.
Cf. Rom.15:4

It is a hope that will never _____.
Cf. Titus 1:1,2; Rom.5:5

II. This Hope is _____ to the Biblical Narrative.

It was first _____ east of Eden. (proto-evangelium)
Cf. Gen.3:15

"It is the first glimmer of the gospel" Derek Kidner

It was further fleshed out by the OT _____.

III. This Hope _____ in a Cradle, a Cross and a New Creation. Cf. 1 Pet.1:3; 2 Pet.3:13

"Love hopes all things...He means that we have an underlying confidence that God will be with us and bless us just as He has promised, even when lie is at its worst. It is a hope that we can hold on to even when we are suffering, even when life seems to be unravelling at the seams, even when our worst nightmares are coming true. We can still have hope, because God kept His biggest promise, His oldest and costliest promise, when Love came down at Christmas." (S. Ferguson Love Came Down at Christmas pp.104,107)