

**“My Hope Is Built!”**  
**Lamentations 3:21**

1. Welcome To The First Sunday Of The New Year!
  - It Is Always Good To Start The Year Off Right:
    - Worshiping The Lord:
      - Together As A Church!
  - As We Have Done For The Last Several Years:
    - I Would Like To Share:
      - What Will Be Our Special Focus For The Year To Come!
2. Last Year - Our Primary Focus Was On One Of The Great Doctrines:
  - And Attributes Of God:
    - His **Immutability!**
      - Which Simply Means That:
        - God Never Changes!
    - Even Though Last Year Brought Many Different Kinds:
      - Of Challenges & Changes To Our Lives:
        - As Individuals, As Families, And As A Church:
          - God Himself Has Not Changed:
            - Throughout Them All!
          - Neither In His Person:
            - Nor In His Purposes!
    - Even As The Lord Himself Put It:
      - In Malachi 3:6 - “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed!”
  - 3. And So - To Remind Us Of This Truth Last Year:
    - On Sunday Mornings:
      - Our Primary Focus Was On:
        - The Immutable & Unchanging **Gospel** Of God’s Grace:
          - As Revealed To Us In Paul’s Letter Of Galatians!
      - And I Pray That Our Exploration Of That Book:
        - Has Increased Your Faith In:
          - And Love For The True Gospel – And Especially The One Who The Gospel Is All About – The Lord Jesus Christ!
            - Who Remains – “The Same Yesterday, To Day, And For Ever!” (Hebrews 13:8)
      - And On Sunday Evenings:
        - Our Primary Focus Was On:
          - The Doctrine Of God’s Immutability!
            - As The Puritan, Thomas Watson, Once Described It - “There Are Changes In Everything, But In God!”
        - It Is The Unchanging Nature Of God:
          - That We Need To “Set Our Sights” On:
            - In This Ever-Changing World!
              - **IE:** Even As Sailors Would Use A Sextant In Order To Stay On Their Proper Course - “Shooting A Star” That, From Their Perspective At Least, Never Changes!
        - I Pray That You Have Also Grown In Your Pursuit:
          - Of Your Immutable & Unchanging God!
            - Keep “Looking Unto – And Setting Your Sights On – Jesus [As] The Author And Finisher Of [Your] Faith!” (Hebrews 12:2)
    - 4. For This New Year:
      - We Will Begin With Our Focus On:
        - **Biblical & Christian Hope!**
          - This Is Not The Kind Of Hope:
            - That The World Wishes For & Tries To Offer!
          - But The Kind Of Hope:
            - That We Find In The Word Of God & Offered To All Those Who Believe In The Lord Jesus Christ!

- It Is The Kind Of Hope That We Find:
  - Possessed By Jeremiah The Prophet:
    - Known As The “Weeping Prophet” Because:
      - Of The Discouragement & Distress He So Often Faced:
        - In A World & Society That Had Forgotten God!

5. Let’s First Look Together At Jeremiah’s Distress:

- In Lamentations 3:1-20!
  - Perhaps You Have Felt This Way:
    - At Some Point In Your Life!
      - Perhaps You Feel This Way Today:
        - Even Wondering If This New Year Will Bring Anything Positive With It!

- Well - We Must Not Stop With:

- Jeremiah’s Lament In 3:20!
  - Because Then We Find That In The Lord:
    - There Really Is Hope!

- Lamentations 3:21-26 - “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. / 22 It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. / 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. / 24 The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. / 25 The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. / 26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD!”

- In These Six Verses:

- We Find The Word “Hope” Three Times!
  - And All Three Times - The Basis For Jeremiah’s Hope Is The Lord Himself!

6. So - This Morning - I Would Like For Us To Consider Together:

- What Is This **Hope**:

- That We Find In The Bible?
  - This **Hope** That Was Like A Spiritual Ointment That Brought Encouragement To Such A Discouraged Soul Like Jeremiah!

- This **Hope**:

- That Is The Possession:
  - Of Every True Child Of God!
    - Every True Believer In Jesus Christ!

- What Is Hope & Where Can Hope Be Found?

\* First - To Answer These Questions - Look At:

1. **The Need For Hope!**

- Because There Is A Great Need For Hope!
  - Because Hopelessness Is Seen Everywhere In The World!
    - You Can Go Far Away:
      - Where Food Is Scarce & The Future Is Bleak! **IE:** Think About The Situation Of Those Civilians Who Were In The Syrian City Of Aleppo! Many Were Caught In The Middle Of A Conflict, And Were Brutalized From Both Sides!
        - Hopelessness!
    - Or You Can Stay Close To Home:
      - Where People Are Still Struggling! With Their Finances - Because Of The Increasing Costs Of Living! With Their Families & Even Their Future!
        - Hopelessness Is Common!
  - People Look To Many Things To Offer Them Some Hope:
    - Sports Teams! Maybe Not For Colts / Broncos Fans This Year! So - Maybe This Is A Bad Example! But A Good Example Is That Of:
      - Politics! With The Results Of The Elections - Many Hope For Change!
      - Change Of Circumstances!
      - But It Is A Hope That Does Not Last! Temporary!
  - There Is A Great Need For Lasting Hope!
    - Because:
- There Are Those Who Are Lacking Hope!
  - The Bible Clearly Teaches That Anyone Who Is Not A Part Of The Family Of God Has No True Hope!
  - Ephesians 2:12 - “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,

- and strangers from the covenants of promise, *having no hope*, and without God in the world!”
- They Need A Real & Lasting Hope!
- There Are Those Who Have Lost Hope!
  - Once, The Light Of Hope Shone Brightly, But That Light & Hope Has Faded Into The Darkness All Around!
  - Like The “Whole House Of Israel” In Ezekiel 37:11 - “Our bones are dried, and *our hope is lost!*”
  - They Need A Real & Lasting Hope!
- There Are Those Who Have Limited Hope!
  - That May Last For A Little While, But Not As Long As They Need It – A False Hope!
  - Paul Recognized The Importance Of An Eternal Hope For Christians When He Said: “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable!” (1 Corinthians 15:19)
  - They Need A Real & Lasting Hope!
- Which Are You Like?
  - Are You Lacking Hope?
    - Have You Lost Hope?
      - Or Do You Have A Limited Hope?
- There Is A Great Need For True Hope – For All Of Us!

\* But We Also Need To Understand:

## 2. ***The Meaning Of Hope!***

- The Hope That We All Need:
  - Is Drastically Different Than:
    - The Hope That We Are Often Offered:
      - By This World!
      - You See:
- Our Use Of Hope:
  - Involves Desire:
    - And ***Uncertainty!***
  - Many Times, When We Use The Word Hope:
    - It Means Little More To Us Than:
      - A Wish!
        - Wanting & Hoping For Something Better - That May Or May Not Ever Happen!
  - This Is The Kind Of “Hope” That People Talk About:
    - When It Is A New Year!
      - Hoping For A Better Time:
        - And For Better Things!
  - One Writer Defines This Kind Of Hope In This Way:
    - “To Wish For, To Expect, But Without Certainty Of The Fulfilment – To Desire Very Much, But With No Real Assurance Of Getting Your Desire!” (J. Hampton Keathley, III - Bible.org)
    - This Is The Kind Of “Hope” The World Has & This Is The Only Kind Of “Hope That The World Can Offer – With No Guarantee! – But This Is Also The Kind Of “Hope” That We All Too Often Have As Well!
    - But This Is Altogether Different Than:
- God’s Use Of Hope!
  - Which Involves Desire:
    - And ***Certainty!***
      - This Is The Big Difference:
        - Between The World’s Hope & God’s Hope – The Kind Of Hope We Find In The Bible!
  - The Words Used In The Bible:
    - That Are Frequently Translated “Hope” In Our English Bibles:
      - Both In The Old Testament & In The New Testament:
        - Refer To Something That Is ***Expected!***
  - The Same Writer Defines This Biblical Kind Of Hope In This Way:
    - “Hope [In The Bible] Is An Indication Of Certainty! A Strong And Confident Expectation!”
    - See This All Throughout The Bible!
- And So - Back In Lamentations 3:21:

- Where The Prophet Jeremiah Wrote:
  - “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope!”
- He Was Not Talking About:
  - A Hope & A Wish In Something:
    - That God ***Might*** Give To Him! No!
- He Was Talking About:
  - A Hope & An ***Assurance*** In:
    - The Mercy & The Compassion & The Faithfulness Of God:
      - That Were ***Guaranteed*** To Him, As A Child Of God!
- Do You Have ***This*** Kind Of Hope?
  - If You Are A Child Of God This Morning:
    - Like Jeremiah - Through Faith In:
      - The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - Then You Do!
    - It Is Not Based On Potential:
      - But On Promises!
        - The Promises Of Almighty God!
    - This Kind Of Hope Is Your Hope!
      - Because Of:

### 3. ***The Source Of Hope!***

- King David Experienced The Same Kind Of:
  - Discouragement & Despair In His Life:
    - At Times As Well!
  - And He Captured His Feelings:
    - As Well As The Solution He FoundL
      - In Several Of His Psalms!
  - Including Psalm 42:1-5:
    - “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. / 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? / 3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? / 4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. / 5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance!”
  - And Later In 42:11 - He Repeats Both The Object:
    - And The Source Of His Hope - “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God!”
- The Source Of True Hope:
  - Is The One True God!
    - And He Is The Sole Source:
      - Of The Hope We Need!
  - And You Will Only Experience Personal Hope From The Person Of Hope:
    - If & When Your Focus Is On Him!
      - Like Jeremiah! Like David!
        - So When It Seems That All “Hope” Is Lost:
- You Need To Keep Thinking On The Lord!
  - Remember The Words Of Jeremiah?
    - In Lamentations 3:21 - “This I ***recall to my mind***, therefore have I ***hope!***”
  - Like The Hymn - “*I Think Of My Blessed Redeemer, I Think Of Him All The Day Long!*”
    - When You Think On The Lord:
      - You Will Find Your Hope:
        - Because He Is The Source Of Hope!
- You Need To Keep Trusting In The Lord!
  - In Many Ways:
    - “Hope” & “Trust” Are Synonymous:
      - In The Bible!

- See This In:
  - Psalm 71:5 - “For thou art my *hope*, O Lord GOD: thou art my *trust* from my youth!”
- So - When You Trust In The Lord:
  - You Will Find Your Hope In The Lord:
    - Because He Is The Source Of Hope!
- You Need To Keep Turning To The Lord!
  - Lamentations 3:26:
    - “It is good that a man should both *hope* and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD!”
  - The Lord Is The Only Source:
    - For The Hope & Assurance That:
      - We Need!

### Conclusion:

1. So - To Help Us This Year:
  - Grow In Our Hope:
    - Both *In* The Lord & *From* The Lord:
      - We Are Going To Focus Our Attention On:
        - The Hope That God Offers Through His Word!
2. Beginning Next Sunday Morning:
  - We Are Going To Begin A Series Of Messages:
    - Through The Old Testament Book Of:
      - Esther!
    - Esther Is Such A Unique Book:
      - Because Nowhere In The Book:
        - Is The Name Of God Mentioned!
      - And Because The People Of God:
        - Are In A Foreign Country Living In A Foreign Culture:
          - It Seems As If God Is Completely Absent:
            - Along With Any Hope!
        - In Many Ways - It Is A Parallel To Our Own Time & Place:
          - Because Every Christian - No Matter Where Or When We Live:
            - Are Living As “Strangers & Pilgrims On The Earth!” (Hebrews 11:13)
          - And Sometimes It Even Feels To Us:
            - That God Is Completely Absent:
              - As Well As Any Hope!
        - But - What We Will Find:
          - All Throughout Esther – And In Our Own Lives:
            - Is That - As Paul Puts It In Romans 15:4 - “Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have *hope*!”
          - Even If God’s Name Is Not Mentioned!
            - Even When God’s Presence Seems Absent!
              - God Is Still There - And So Is His Hope!
    - 3. But Also - On Sunday Nights:
      - We Are Going To Explore More Closely The Hope:
        - That God Offers To His People:
          - Through Jesus Christ!
        - Even As We Read In:
          - Titus 2:13 - “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!”
    - 4. And So - My Prayer Is That:
      - Through His Word This Year:
        - God Will Build Up Our Confident Hope In Him:
          - And In The Lord Jesus Christ:
            - More And More:
              - As We Await The Arrival Of Our “Blessed Hope!”
    - 5. And What Will This Biblical Kind Of Hope Do?
      - When You Are Weary!

- His Hope Will Give You Rest!
  - Psalm 16:9 - “Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall *rest in hope!*”
- When You Are Weak!
  - His Hope Will Give You Strength!
    - Psalm 31:24 - “Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that *hope* in the LORD!”
- When You Are Worried!
  - His Hope Will Give You Peace!
    - Psalm 42:5 - “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? *hope thou in God!*”
- When You Are Weeping!
  - His Hope Will Give You Joy!
    - Psalm 146:5 - “Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose *hope* is in the LORD his God!”
- When You Trust In The Lord Jesus Christ:
  - You Will Have This Kind Of Hope!

\* “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less!”

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