

# HOPE IS HERE

*God is with Us Series*

Agape Life Church  
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*"The people who sat in darkness **have seen a great light**, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death **Light has dawned.**" Matthew 4:16*

## **The Life Changing Message of Hope**

If there is ever a time we need the hope of Christmas the time is here. This is the season of HOPE because the King has come.

**What is hope? Hope is a vision for better days.** There's something up ahead, around the corner, in sight, and it's good. Biblical hope not only desires something good for the future - it expects it to happen.

Everyday we use that small, but irreplaceable word - hope. If you think about it hope helps us make it through everyday.

When we are being pressed by the difficulties of life, we need to know that the **hope we place in God can be sure and certain.**

*Despair looks at immediate realities; hope sees ultimate realities.*

**Some see a hopeless end, but others see an endless hope.**

Hope is important and **does a wonderful work in those** who find it and hold onto it.

Hope is the unquenchable desire we all carry to see our God-given longings fulfilled. **It is the tracks upon which all our lives run.** The longing of hope steers us left, right and as believers, **back to God.**

Hope is defined as a strong expectation, **a strong desire for something to happen, a feeling of trust.** Hope is a powerful word. **With hope, comes encouragement and the desire to persevere.** The ability to wait expectantly infuses a person with life, energy, and often the will to persevere when growing weary.

Hope inspires us to look forward **with expectation the great things God will do in, through, with and for us.**

## **The Power of Hope is Personified in Christ**

Matthew 1:20-23 Jesus is our Immanuel - Hope Is Here!

**Core Point:** We all need to experience the power of God's supernatural hope in our lives. Our God is the God of hope, and as we place our trust in Him, we will be safe in His presence and find the answer to what we need most.

*For everything that was written in the past was written **to teach us**, so that through endurance and the **encouragement of the Scriptures we might have HOPE.** Romans 15:4*

God was not done when Noah was in the ark, Sarah was barren, Joseph was in prison, Moses was on the run from Pharaoh, the children of Israel were pinned against the Red Sea, the walls of Jericho blocked possession of the promised land, Gideon was hiding from the Midianites, Samson was seduced and blinded, Ruth was widowed, David was mocked when facing a giant, government officials persecuted Daniel, Jonah was in the belly of a fish, Jesus was put in the grave. Paul was persecuted, shipwrecked and left for dead and **God is not done! Hope is never hopeless, because He is not done!**

## **He is Our Hope - Our Anchor in a Difficult World**

*We who have fled to Him **for refuge** can have great confidence **as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.** It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary."* Hebrews 6:19 NLT

**Hope stabilizes in the storm:** There are sixty-six drawings of anchors in the catacombs, the caves and tunnels that persecuted Christians hid in during the Roman persecutions.

**Hope was their anchor during those dark and stormy days.**

*"The cable of faith casts out the anchor of hope and lays hold of the steadfast rock of God's promises."*

Hope gives us an anchor for our soul, our mind and emotions.

## **Hope is the Refuge for Our Souls**

The hope for our redeemer is the essence of Christmas; we celebrate the first coming with the certain promise of His second coming! This is our blessed HOPE!

*Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.* Titus 2:13

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13

There is always hope because Jesus has come and given us Himself and a path to face anything in life.

**He is coming again and that is our ultimate blessed hope!**

**Core Statement:** Jesus is my source of supernatural hope Himself. I will never, ever give up my God given hope! He will make a way for me and I will be filled with peace and joy as I abound in hope!