

Theme: The hope that overcomes the despair and alienation caused by the fall is found in Christ, as we look to Him in faith.

## I. Intro – The Importance of Hope

- A. The text today deals with the exiles experience
- B. Interview with Admiral Stockdale on POW's
- C. Proper hope led to survival
- D. Those with no hope gave up and died
- E. Those with false hope lost hope eventually
- F. Why do we need hope? Where is true hope found?

## II. Our Human Condition: Despair

- A. The writer is full of despair (Lam 3:19-20)
- B. The Roots of Despair - The Fall (Gen 3:7-10)
  - 1. Fall - naked; fear; hiding from God, others
  - 2. We were not made for fear, hiding
  - 3. This produces despair - we know something is wrong
- C. The fruits of despair - individual and corporate
  - 1. We have downcast souls (Psalm 42:5 [42:11; 43:5])
  - 2. Our days like shadows, no hope (1 Chron. 29:15)
  - 3. Can even be true of a nation (our text)
- D. The ultimate despair - death
  - 1. Our text - death from fall of Jerusalem (Lam 1:1, 20)
  - 2. Our recognition of death & despair (Job 7:6)

- 3. We try to cope - ignore; euphemisms; jokes
- 4. Reality - if death is the end - no hope (Job 17:13-16)

## III. Our True Hope - God Alone

- A. First glimmer of hope - God's character (Lam. 3:21-23)
  - 1. God's love & integrity foundation for hope (vv21-23)
  - 2. Our hope is in God - not circumstances (Ps 42:11)
  - 3. Our hope is in god - nothing else (Ps 62:5)
- B. Hope - even in death!
  - 1. Growing hope of resurrection (Psa 16:9-11)
  - 2. Hope for Israel - even in exile (Jer 29:11)
  - 3. Hope for the Gentiles! (Isa 42:1-7)
  - 4. This hope is in the Servant - Jesus! (Isa 42:1-7)
  - 5. Jesus is the Hope of all nations (Rom. 15:12)

## IV. The Call - Wait in Hope for Jesus

- A. Wait on the LORD (Lam. 3:24-26)
  - 1. Wait; hope; seek; it is good! (vv24-26)
  - 2. Wait for God - expectantly (Psa 130:5-8)
- B. The key - preach to ourselves each day (Lam 3:24)

## V. Applying the Word - Celebrating the Advent of Hope

- A. Do we see true hope has come in Christ?
  - 1. Do we see the real despair in this world?
  - 2. Do we see the final despair of death?
  - 3. Do we see that Christ has come to deliver us?
  - 4. Have we found real hope in Him?
  - 5. Look to Him - and have hope!
- B. Wait on Jesus for hope
  - 1. This week I encourage you to practice Advent
  - 2. Not just a ritual - look to Christ for hope!
  - 3. As you light the candle use the books
  - 4. If you want more, download verses from the website
  - 5. Focus on Christ, wait for Him
  - 6. Pick one thing - look to Him for hope and salvation

### Unwrapping Hope In Christ

Lamentations 3:19-26

November 27, 2011

Prayer

Romans 15:13

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were **naked**; so they sewed fig leaves together and made **coverings for themselves**. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.**” Genesis 3:7–10

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Psalms 42:5

We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 1 Chronicles 29:15

How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave... 20 See, O LORD, how distressed I am! I am in torment within, and in my heart I am disturbed, for I have been most rebellious. Outside, the sword bereaves; inside, there is only death. Lamentations 1:1, 20

My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and they come to an end without hope. Job 7:6

13 If the only home I hope for is the grave, if I spread out my bed in darkness, 14 if I say to corruption, ‘You are my father,’ and to the worm, ‘My mother’ or ‘My sister,’ 15 where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me? 16 Will it go down to the gates of death? Will we descend together into the dust?” Job 17:13–16

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? **Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.** Psalms 42:11

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. Psalms 62:5

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. 11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalms 16:9–11

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the **nations**... 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice **on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.**”... 6 I will keep you and will make you to be **a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles**... Isaiah 42:1–7

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And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.” Romans 15:12

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. 7 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. 8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins. Psalms 130:5–8