

Jesus was Prophesied as the **Hope** of the World (various passages)
Prepared and preached by Pastor Steve Rhodes for and at Bethel Friends Church in
Poland, OH on November 27, 2022

Years ago an S-4 submarine was rammed by a ship off the coast of Massachusetts. It sank immediately. The entire crew was trapped in a prison house of death. Every effort was made to rescue the crew, but all ultimately failed. Near the end of the ordeal, a deep-sea diver, who was doing everything in his power to find a way for the crew's release, thought he heard a tapping on the steel wall of the sunken sub. He placed his helmet up against the side of the vessel and he realized it was the Morse Code. He attached himself to the side and he spelled out in his mind the message being tapped from within. It was repeating the same question. The question was, from within: "Is ... there ... any ... hope?"¹

Who is our hope?

Is our hope a politician? What do you think? Who is our hope?

From the Christian worldview, Jesus is our hope.
Jesus is our hope.

Today, my theme is that Jesus was prophesied as the Hope of the World.

The Advent wreath is a tradition of generations that represent the longing for the coming of Jesus, Our Savior. A candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday to signify the promise of the arrival of Christ, the Light of the World.

Today, we light the first candle – the candle of HOPE.

The Israelites lived in hope; hope through their enslavement, hope through their exodus, hope through their years of struggle to establish their kingdom, and the years of their exile. They waited for their Messiah.

God's promise is now with us. We wait in hope as well...but we now hold the promise of salvation through the Messiah. Our hope of Eternal Life is before us -
- our hope is in the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus.

Now, let's light the first Advent candle that signifies hope.

¹ Charles R. Swindoll, [*The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart and 1501 Other Stories*](#) (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2016), 275.

- I. Where is Jesus in the Old Testament?
- a. Jesus is active in the Old Testament.
 - b. Jesus was the active agent in creation (Col. 1:16).
 - c. But where are the prophesies of Jesus showing that He is the hope of the world?
 - d. Well, where do I begin?
 - e. Let's start at the beginning:
 - f. Read with me Genesis 3:15: *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*"
 - g. Hark the Herald Angels Sing: clearly Genesis 3:15 was in the mind of Charles Wesley when he wrote the 4th verse:

*Come, Desire of nations, come!
Fix in us Thy humble home:
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head;
Adam's likeness now efface,
Stamp Thine image in its place:
Final Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love.*²
 - h. *This verse is known in Christendom as the protoevangelium, or "first good news," because it is the first foretelling of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Using an emphatic Hebrew construction, God announced here that a male descendant—He—would someday deal the serpent (meaning Satan) a fatal blow. The NT writers understood Jesus Christ to have fulfilled this prophecy (Heb 2:14; 1Jn 3:8).*³
 - i. Verse 15 is Messianic. This is the first prophesy of the Messiah. Her offspring will give a death blow to the devil, bruise his head means death.
 - j. Verse 15 does say that there will be enmity between her offspring and the devil, and the devil's offspring (maybe demons). There is still that sin struggle. Often, I think that would mean all of us as her offspring; however, "offspring" is singular.
 - k. Seed in the Bible just means offspring: Hagar and her seed Ishmael. This does not mean seed as in sperm just as offspring.

² Dr Rydelnic; Bible Study moment; 12.02.2021
NT New Testament

³ Robert D. Bergen, "[Genesis.](#)" in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 11.

- l. Again, this passage uses her offspring saying “He” and that is masculine, singular, meaning One person, the man, Christ Jesus.
- m. Think about that. There will be One offspring, Jesus, that will deliver the death blow to satan.
- n. So, right here after the first sin God gives grace.
- o. Now, let’s look at three passages from Isaiah.
- p. Isaiah 9:6-7: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*
- q. This passage shows that the son to be born by the virgin cannot be a mere human son.
- r. This passage has not been fully fulfilled yet.
- s. Verse 6: the Government will rest on His shoulders. We get this picture in the New Testament that Jesus is reigning, but certainly not literally now, but He will be reigning over all (Rev. 21-22).
- t. Look at the names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God: this means that He will do more than any other person can do. He will be fully God. All of these are throne titles:
- u. All these titles are throne titles. Wonderful counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of peace.
- v. He will be Everlasting God. I like what one source wrote about this phrase: He is said to be everlasting, just as God (the Father) is called “the Ancient of Days” (Dan. 7:9). The Messiah will be a “fatherly” Ruler. Third, perhaps Isaiah had in mind the promise to David (2 Sam. 7:16) about the “foreverness” of the kingdom which God promised would come through David’s line. The Messiah, a Descendant of David, will fulfill this promise for which the nation had been waiting.⁴
- w. He will be called the Prince of Peace: the One who will bring in and maintain the time of millennial peace when the nation will be properly

⁴ Martin, J. A. (1985). Isaiah. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1053). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

related to the Lord.⁵ Verse 7 again emphasizes that there will be no end to His Kingdom.

- x. Praise God! We can experience Jesus' Kingdom now, but we will not fully experience Jesus' Kingdom until the end when all is made right by Jesus.
- y. Isaiah 40:3-5: *A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*
- z. In Mark chapter 1, he starts out his gospel account quoting this passage about John the baptizer. John the baptizer was a voice in the wilderness crying out to people to prepare for the Lord.
- aa. Isaiah 42:6-7: *"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness..."*
- bb. This is another prophetic passage. This passage is written some 700 years prior to Jesus but it is about Jesus coming to institute a new covenant for the people, a light for the gentiles.
- cc. Gentiles are non-Jews.
- dd. Isaiah 53 is quoted in various places of the New Testament about Jesus prophesied as the hope of the world. That chapter rings of who Jesus would come to be and what He would do.

A lady had a circle of friends for whom she really wanted to buy Christmas presents. Time slipped away and it was so busy at work for her she just wasn't able to get to the store to purchase those gifts. Time was running out. So not too many days before Christmas she decided to give up on the gift idea and just buy everybody the same beautiful Christmas card. She went to the local gift store and hurriedly went through the now picked over stack of cards and found a box of fifty, just exactly what she wanted. She didn't take time to read the message, just noticed a beautiful cover on it and there was gold around it and a floral appearance on the

⁵ Ibid.

front of the card and she thought, "That's perfect." So she signed all of them, "With all my love."

As New Year's came and she had time to go back to two or three cards she didn't send from that stack, she was shocked to read the message inside. It said, in a little rhyme, "This Christmas card is just to say, a little gift is on its way."⁶

- II. In the Old Testament Jesus was a gift still to come. Certainly, He was active in creation, but He hadn't come and become a man. He hadn't graced us with His presence. Now He has come.
- a. What is your view of Jesus?
 - b. Do you view Jesus as 6 pounds 18 oz or whatever He would have weighed?
 - c. Do you think of Jesus as a little baby?
 - d. Do you think of Jesus as the man who walked with the disciples through three years of ministry?
 - e. Do you think of Jesus as the carpenter?
 - f. Maybe you think of Jesus as the man hanging on the cross?
 - g. Yes, Jesus came as a baby, but He no longer is a baby. Yes, Jesus worked as a carpenter, but He no longer is a carpenter. Yes, Jesus walked with His disciples, but not anymore. Yes, Jesus hung on the cross, but He died and rose again. Jesus is no longer dead.
 - h. I don't mean to minimize His earthly life; Jesus lived a fully human life.
 - i. I simply want to get you thinking of Jesus as Lord of Heaven and earth.
 - j. Jesus is the hope of the world, not a politician.
 - k. Jesus is the hope of the world, not a scientist.
 - l. Jesus is the hope of the world, not an entertainer.
 - m. We must trust Jesus and only Jesus for our hope.
 - n. We must trust Jesus.

'Twas the Night before Jesus Came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care

⁶ Swindoll, Charles R. Read in *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes*. Thomas Nelson. Nashville, TN 1998. Page 81.

In hopes that Jesus would not come in there.
The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head,
And mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the late show while I took a nap.
When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus is here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment that this must be THE DAY!
The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the book of life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said, "It's not here," my head hung in shame.
The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without sound
While all the rest were left standing around.
I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight.
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.
In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is soon drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call----
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!⁷

Prayer

⁷ Swindoll, Charles R. Read in *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes*. Thomas Nelson. Nashville, TN 1998. Page 87. Author anonymous.

