



Simeon - Hope | Luke 2:25-35 / Isaiah 9:2

Isaiah 9:2 NKJV

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

God was offering His people hope in Isaiah 9:2 by promising a light that would come to expel the darkness. Simeon's encounter with the baby Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to bring salvation to all people. Simeon had the audacity to hope that God would come through, even after years of waiting.

Key Question: Where is your hope?

When our hope is placed in anything other than the promises of God and the fulfillment of prophetic promises in Jesus, we tend to settle for hope in lesser things. These things always fail and always lead to frustration.

In the midst of whatever you are going through . . . where do you find your hope? How you answer this question makes all the difference. Is your hope based on something you want God to do or is it based in God Himself?

Here are the beauty and the dark side of the holidays. It is during this time of year the good of life and the bad of life are both exaggerated. In no other time of the year are we more aware of the problems we can't solve, the people we can't control, the losses of relationships, and expectations we can't meet. There are problems that are decades in the making that you won't be able to fix overnight. There are people in your life whom you won't be able to

save during the holidays, loved ones who will not be at the family gathering this year, and there are expectations that you will try so hard to meet for someone else in your family but you will never be able to do it.

That's not where your hope is.

There is a difference in being hopeful FOR something and being hopeful IN something. Choose this year to face your deep longings and come to believe that there is one specific Source from whom you can derive hope—and that Source is Jesus Christ.

During this Advent season, we don't just idly wait and hope. In fact, when we sense our deep longing and know our Source of hope, then we can live every moment believing the best is

before us. When we begin to embrace the anticipation and the expectation, we free ourselves up from the urgency of having to fix things now, and know that our God is at work. The question is, how will you join Him in that work? It is an active anticipation.

Join your church in serving, giving, belonging, and praying for the only Hope that is eternal... extending beyond despair, darkness, and even death. And His name is Jesus.

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