

Hope Against Hope

Romans 4: 18

29 November 2020. A.M.

Series: Advent 2020

Romans 4: 18

In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”

[New American Standard Bible: 1995 update. \(1995\). \(Ro 4:18\). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.](#)

Hopeless But Promised

- Abram was promised a world blessing seed.
 - Genesis 12: 1 – 3
 - Abraham would be father of many nations (Gen. 17: 5).
- But Sarah was barren, and they were too old.
 - Genesis 17: 17 – this was hopeless.
- Abram (Abraham) was expected to believe God's promise despite his hopeless situation.
 - Believe that God keeps His promises.
 - Believe that nothing is impossible with God.

Hope Defined

- The worlds hope is based on favorable circumstances.
 - I hope I do not get sick, or have what I need.
 - I hope I get rich quick.
- Biblical hope is based on God's promises.
 - This is a hope of anticipation verses a hope of chance.
 - If God promised it is a sure thing and we can expect it.
 - The struggle comes when everything looks hopeless to us.

Hope Realized

- God has promised His church blessings despite crises.
 - God said he will never leave nor forsake us. (Heb 13: 5).
 - Notice that text speaks of character that is free from the love of money and being content with what we have.
- This does not exempt us from troubles, sickness or death.
 - God often uses our troubles and sickness to grow us.
 - With His promise of eternal life, we need not fear death.
 - Such hope is based on faith and leads to joy.

Conclusion

- Like Abraham we can often feel like we are in a hopeless situation as humanly defined.
- Like Abraham our faith in God fulfilling His promises can give us real hope when we feel hopeless.
- No matter what our trouble, challenge, trial, sickness or suffering, knowing that God is with us and will take us home to be with Him we have hope.
- Great hope anticipates Jesus coming as seen in the Old Testament prophets, and that He is coming again.