

# Hope in a World of Disappointment

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,

*"The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles **hope**."*

<sup>13</sup> May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**. (Romans 15:12-13)

**Hope because of what Jesus *has done*: Your \_\_\_\_\_ has met a \_\_\_\_\_.**

*The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)*

**Hope because of what Jesus *is doing*: Your \_\_\_\_\_ is producing \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

**Hope because of what Jesus *will do*: Your \_\_\_\_\_ will turn to \_\_\_\_\_.**

*And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 55:11)*

<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:2-4)



# Hope In A World of Dissappointment

---

December 5, 2021



**Open:** What's an example of something you had hoped for that happened? What's an example of your hopes not being fulfilled?

**Read & Discuss:** Romans 15:12–13

1. How would the message that the "root of Jesse" was to be a hope for the Gentiles have been surprising and significant (v. 12)? Being ruled by someone is not always seen as good news. What would make the Gentiles find hope in one who would "rule" them (v. 12)?
2. What can we learn about the source of hope from verse 13? How have you experienced such hope? How might we share that hope with those walking through a season of disappointment?

**Read & Discuss:** Romans 8:18–25

3. What do these verses tell us about the relationship between sin and our longing? How would you explain the "hope" of believers depicted in verses 24-25?
4. What would result if we regularly adopted Paul's perspective in verse 18? What does it mean to "wait for [what is coming] with patience" (v. 25)? What makes it hard to hold on to future hope? Is it a contradiction to patiently wait (v. 25) while groaning inwardly (v. 23)? Explain.

**Read & Discuss:** Revelation 21:1–4

5. How would you describe God from the details contained within the passage? How is our relationship to Him portrayed in ways that offer us reason for hope?
6. From this description, what aspects of our future do you find particularly encouraging? How should knowing what's coming help us find hope in current disappointments?

**Apply:** How might we help the unbelieving world see the hope Jesus offers them in their disappointment? What are ways we can encourage our fellow believers to have hope in God in the midst of their disappointments and struggles?

**Pray:** Ask God to help us better root our hope in Him in the midst of a broken world. Ask God to provide courage for us to declare God's hope to others who are experiencing disappointment.

## **Romans 15:12–13**

<sup>[12]</sup> And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

<sup>[13]</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (ESV)

## **Romans 8:18–25**

<sup>[18]</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>[19]</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

<sup>[20]</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>[21]</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>[22]</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>[23]</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>[24]</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>[25]</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (ESV)

## **Revelation 21:1–4**

<sup>[1]</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>[2]</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>[3]</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>[4]</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (ESV)