

“What will you find this Christmas?”

Part #1 – HOPE that Never Fades

Sunday December 2, 2007 / Pastor Dave Larmour
Audio available at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio>

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” Proverbs 13:12

What is hope?

- a. Cultural hope → ‘wishful thinking’
- b. Biblical hope → GK. ‘Elpis’
→ ‘**Confident** expectation’

“When we believe that tomorrow will not be better than today, we lose hope.” Rob Bell

What happens when hope fades?

Disappointment → Despair → Depression → Destruction

1. The first Advent of Christ is fore-told in a time when hope (confident expectation) was scarce

- ✓ Isaiah 9:1-9
- ✓ Matthew 4:13-16
- ✓ 2 Kings 15:29

- a. Held **captive** by the Assyrians
- b. Dominated by the Assyrians
- c. **Controlled** by the Assyrians

Take Home ...

Just as the people of Israel were in deep darkness before Messiah came, we too were held captive, dominated and controlled by evil before Christ came to us.

2. The first Advent of Christ was realized at a time when hope (confident expectation) was rare

- ✓ Matthew 2:1-6
 - a. The people of **Jerusalem**
 - b. The Religious Leaders
- ✓ Luke 2:25-38
 - c. **Simeon** (listening) and Anna
 - d. Magi (watching)

Take Home ...

It's easy to miss the star in the sky when we're preoccupied with the world on the **fly**.

3. The second Advent of Christ will be the fulfillment of the hope (confident expectation) we share

- a. Our **living** hope → 1 Peter 1:3, 8-9
- b. Our **remaining** hope → 1 Cor. 13:13
- c. Our **persevering** hope → Job 13:15
- d. Our **purifying** hope → 1 John 3:3

“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.” Psalm 42:5

Take Home ...

There is more to life than this material world and one day we will be at home with the one who came for us and promises to come again to take us to be with him.