



INDESTRUCTIBLE











HOPE

A popular idiom reads: “Hope springs eternal.” Hope is essential to face troubles and suffering with strength and motivation.

This is why hope is one of the three pillars of Christian life, along with faith and love (1Co. 13:13).

What do Christians hope for? How can we get hope and strengthen it?



-  **The foundations of hope:**
 -  **Knowing the end: Habakkuk**
 -  **Knowing God: Job**
-  **Hope in God:**
 -  **His presence: Isaiah 41:8-14**
 -  **His plans: Jeremiah 29:1-14**
-  **Hope and the crucible:**
 -  **Discipline: Hebrews 12:1-13**

KNOWING THE END

“For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.” (Hab. 2:3 NIV)



The book of Habakkuk begins with a complaint that sounds current: There’s violence, immorality, destruction, disputes, injustice... but God does nothing! (Hab. 1:2-4).

God’s response is quite worrisome: Everything is getting worse (Hab. 1:5-11). Isn’t it an answer we could hear today too?



Since Satan rebelled, the universe is at war, and it constantly gets worse. However, God has promised that Babylon (and evil) will be finally destroyed, and the people of God will be liberated (Hab. 2:8; Rev. 18:2).

Jesus will end evil. This is the “blessed hope” (Titus 2:13).



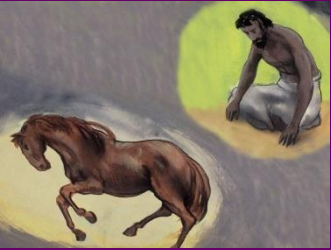
KNOWING GOD

"Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know." (Job 42:3 NIV)

God is shown in Heaven at the beginning of the book of Job. However, God does not appear on scene once the problems begin. He says nothing when Job's friends talk about Him. He says nothing when Job requests a hearing.

God chooses to show Himself only after everyone has given their opinion on Him. However, He says nothing about Himself but asks questions instead. Dozens of questions that Job cannot answer.

Then Job acknowledges that he doesn't really understand God (Job 42:3). Before God's questions, his own questions seem insignificant. He is satisfied because now he knows God better (Job 42:5). Human hope can find security only in a Being much greater than ourselves.



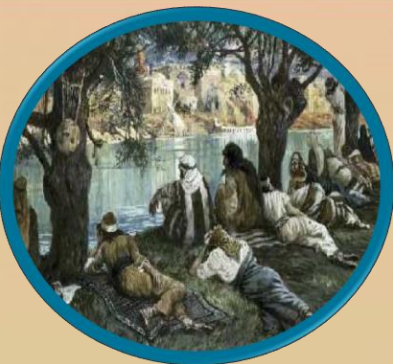
GOD'S PRESENCE

"For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" (Isaiah 41:13)



Isaiah foretold the Babylonian exile. The people of Israel felt abandoned by God in those moments.

When we're facing difficulties, we may feel abandoned by God too. However, He is always by our side.



Is. 41:8

God has
chosen me

Is. 41:9

He frees me
from sin and
doesn't
reject me

Is. 41:10

He is with
me, He helps
me and
sustains me

Is. 41:11-12

He frees me
from my
enemies

Is. 41:13

He holds my
hand, so I
will not fear

Is. 41:14

God is my
aid and my
Redeemer

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Sal. 118:6)

GOD'S PLANS

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Jeremiah wrote a letter to encourage the exiled in Babylon. They had lost heart, they thought they would never go back home. God told them not to lose heart, because:

He was in control; their situation didn't happen by chance (Jer. 29:4)

He would work everything for good even in their troubles (Jer. 29:5-7)

He would end the exile at the right moment (Jer. 29:8-10)

Our hope must be in God. He is in control of our past, our present, and our future.

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:12-13)



DISCIPLINE

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:11 NIV)

In Greek, the word "discipline" is closely related to "learning." God teaches us through discipline (Heb. 12:6).

Paul shared the keys to turn discipline into hope:

The example of the heroes of faith (Heb. 12:1)

The example of Jesus (Heb. 12:2-3)

God loves us, we are His children (Heb. 12:5-7)

We will take part in His holiness (Heb. 12:10)

Discipline bears "peaceable fruit" (Heb. 12:11)

He will strengthen us and guide us (Heb. 12:12-13)



“The Lord can bring victory out of that which may seem to us discomfiture and defeat. We are in danger of forgetting God, of looking at the things which are seen, instead of beholding by the eye of faith the things which are unseen. When misfortune or calamity comes, we are ready to charge God with neglect or cruelty [...] We need to learn that chastisement is a part of His great plan and that under the rod of affliction the Christian may sometimes do more for the Master than when engaged in active service.”

E. G. W. (The Acts of the Apostles, cp. 45, p. 481)