

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**OUR HOPE IN CHRIST-PT 1**  
**JOHN 14:1-3; REVELATION 21**

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**Introduction**

The word **HOPE** is used over 140 times in **SCRIPTURE**. But understand that the word **HOPE** in the **BIBLE** is not the same as the word "*hope*" used in our modern English usage of the word.

We use the word "*hope*" to describe *our wishes, our wants, our desires and our dreams*. We *hope* that it will rain...We *hope* that this milder weather stays with us for a while...We *hope* the preacher isn't long-winded today. That is not the kind of **HOPE** that I'm speaking of this morning.

As **BELIEVERS IN CHRIST** we have **ANOTHER KIND** of **HOPE**... a **DIFFERENT KIND** of **HOPE**! In fact, we have a **BETTER KIND** of **HOPE**!

The **HOPE** that is used in **SCRIPTURE** is not that of wishful thinking, but rather it is that of a **FIRM ASSURANCE** or we might call it a **CONFIDENT EXPECTATION** we have because of the **PROMISES OF GOD** made to us because of our **POSITION** of being in the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**!

We might say that **BIBLICAL HOPE** is **FAITH** in the **FUTURE TENSE**! When **FAITH** looks **ASSUREDLY** to the **FUTURE** of **WHAT** has been **PROMISED** and **WHO** has **PROMISED** it, it's called **HOPE**!

i.e. We can have a **CONFIDENT EXPECTATION** of the things we have been told that are to come to us **IN CHRIST** because of what we saw last week! **WE CAN BELIEVE GOD** and **WE CAN BELIEVE our LORD JESUS CHRIST (WHO is GOD)**!

The reason that we can have a **FULL** and **FIRM ASSURANCE** of what is to come, is because of the **SOURCE** of our **HOPE**! Our **HOPE** comes from the **LORD GOD** and **HIM ALONE**!

**GOD ALONE** can be **BELIEVED** because **TRUTH** is a part of **HIS PERSON**! **TRUTH** is a part of **HIS ESSENTIAL NATURE**!

**GOD ALONE** has the **POWER** to carry out what **HE PROMISES**!

That is what we saw last time and carries over to what we're looking at today!

There are many things that we can have **FULL ASSURANCE** of as a result of our **RELATIONSHIP OF BEING IN CHRIST**! But I want us to focus this week and next week on **OUR HOPE IN CHRIST** as seen in *verses 1-3* here!

**I. WE HAVE THE HOPE OF A PRESENT REFUGE IN CHRIST!**  
*(Vs 1)*

A **REFUGE** is a place of **SHELTER**, a place of **PROTECTION**, a place that **we can run to when the storms of this life begin to rage!**

**JESUS** was **REMINDING HIS DISCIPLES** of that which they surely would have known from their being raised and taught in the **JEWISH** tradition and in their **WORSHIP** of **GOD** in the **SYNAGOGUES** and the **TEMPLE**!

The **PSALMS** were designed to be **sung** and were **sung** in **JEWISH WORSHIP** of **GOD**! Many of the **PSALMS** contain reference to **GOD** being a **REFUGE** and a **HELP** in time of **TROUBLE**!

*Psalm 46:1– “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.”*

*Psalm 59:16– “But I will sing of thy power; Yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: For thou hast been my defence **And refuge** in the day of my trouble.*

*Psalm 62:7– “ In God is my salvation and my glory: **The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.**”*

*Psalm 62:8– “Trust in him at all times; ye people, **Pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.**”*

*Psalm 91:2– “I will say of the **LORD**, **He is my refuge** and my fortress: **My God; in him will I trust.**”*

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*Psalm 94:22—“But the LORD is my defence; And my God is the rock of my refuge.”*

That was exactly what the **LORD'S DISCIPLES** needed at this very moment in their lives! A **REMINDER** of that which they already **KNEW** and **BELIEVED** to be **TRUE**! And that's a lot of what I do as a **PREACHER, PASTOR, and MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL—I REMIND US OF WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW!**

**PAUL** did that in his **EPISTLES** as well as his **PREACHING!**

*Philippians 3:1—“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.”*

**PAUL** told **TIMOTHY** to remember to do this!

*1 Timothy 4:6—“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”*

**PETER** did this as well in his second **EPISTLE!**

*2 Peter 1:12–15— “12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.”*

So, **JESUS** was **REMINDING HIS DISCIPLES** of things they knew or should have known already! **GOD** is a **REFUGE** in **TIMES OF TROUBLE!**

We've seen the **TROUBLING** things that were going on in their lives...I'm not going to go over those things again.

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But the **ANXIETY** spawned by all those things caused them to have **HEARTS** that were greatly **TROUBLED!**

**JESUS** knew how devastated they were and **HE** was concerned about their **TROUBLED HEARTS**. So, **HE REMINDED** them that they **BELIEVED IN GOD** and told them to also **BELIEVE IN HIM!**

**JESUS** spoke these **WORDS OF COMFORT** to them as **HE** encouraged them to **TRUST IN HIM!**

There is **no one** who gets through life in this world without **TROUBLE** at some point! Problems will inevitably come our way and as a result **our HEARTS can become TROUBLED** and we can sometimes be shaken to the very core of our being!

Maybe you are at that point as I speak. I want to remind you of the **HOPE** that you possess as a **CHILD OF GOD!** That is **IF** you are a **CHILD OF GOD!** And if you are **NOT IN CHRIST, HE IS YOUR ONLY HOPE!** Flee to **HIM** today **REPENT** of your **SIN** and **TRUST** in **HIS FINISHED WORK** on the **CROSS** for you!

We who are **IN CHRIST** have a **REFUGE IN GOD THROUGH HIM!** When **TROUBLE** comes our way in this life...**WE NEED ONLY TURN TO JESUS and HIS WORD TO FIND HELP!**

Later in *John 16:33*, **JESUS** made it clear to **HIS FOLLOWERS** that in this world they would have **TRIBULATION!** But even there **HE** told them “...*but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*”

So, **II. WE HAVE THE HOPE OF A PRESENT REFUGE IN CHRIST!**  
**WE HAVE THE HOPE OF A FUTURE RESIDENCE IN CHRIST!** (*Vs 2a*) **JESUS** said here, “*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.*”

Though the **DISCIPLES** were facing the toughest time of their lives, **JESUS** promised them something better in the **FUTURE.**

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As **BELIEVERS IN CHRIST** we can cling to that same **PROMISE** today!

What is it like in our **HEAVENLY FATHER'S HOUSE**?

We are given a glimpse into that residence in **REVELATION 21**.

This chapter tells us that the **APOSTLE JOHN** was given a glimpse into the **FUTURE** and the **LORD** showed him a **NEW HEAVEN** and a **NEW EARTH** for the **FIRST HEAVEN and FIRST EARTH were PASSED AWAY**. (*Vs 1*)

**JESUS** had already told **HIS DISCIPLES** just prior to the time we are studying here: *Matthew 24:35*—“*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*” (Mark and Luke also record it!)

The **APOSTLE PETER** wrote this in his second **EPISTLE**:

*2 Peter 3:10–13*— “*10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which **the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.** 11 Seeing then that **all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**”*

**ISAIAH records the WORD OF THE LORD:**

*Isaiah 65:17*—“*For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: And the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*”

*Isaiah 66:22*—“*For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, Shall remain before me, saith the LORD...*”

**JOHN** states here in verse 2 that he saw a **CITY** coming down from **HEAVEN**— The **NEW JERUSALEM!**

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He describes it as **PREPARED** as a **BRIDE ADORNED** for her **HUSBAND!**

*Hebrews 11:10* tells us that **ABRAHAM** “*looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*” This is that **CITY!**

One of the greatest things about this **CITY** is found there in verse 3! This stands in stark contrast with the **LAKE OF FIRE** where the folks who fail to **TRUST** the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** will be! **GOD** will **NOT** be there in the **LAKE OF FIRE** with them!

Then verse 4 describes what **GOD** will do for us and also tells us the **TROUBLING** things we have here will no longer be with us there!

(*GOD is going to WIPE AWAY ALL of our TEARS once and for all! There will be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain! All the former things that caused all that will have PASSED AWAY!*)

Then verse 5, we see the **ONE on the THRONE**—**JESUS**—says that **HE will make ALL THINGS NEW!**) And **JOHN** was instructed to write “*...for these words are FAITHFUL and TRUE.*” (*cf. Revelation 19:11*)

Now catch verses 6

“*It is done!*” our **SAVIOUR** is one with **ASSURANCES!** How **SURE** is this? Oh this just comes from the **ALPHA AND OMEGA!** The **ONE WHO** is **THE BEGINNING AND THE END!**

The same **ONE WHO** spoke to **JOHN** in:

*Revelation 1:8*— “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*”

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*Revelation 1:17-18—“17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”*

This is the **ONE** that said **HE** would lay **HIS LIFE** down and then **HE** would take it back up again—**AND HE DID JUST THAT!**

**SALVATION** full and free is **PROMISED** to those that thirst for it and drink!

Let's look at Verse 7 now

You might say, but how is it possible to **overcome**?

*1 John 5:4-5—“4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

*(Cf. Romans 8:17; Galatians 4:7— talk about us being the Sons of God, Heirs of GOD, and Joint-Heirs with JESUS!)*

Now to Verse 8

Uh oh! If you are **NOT BORN AGAIN** you only have the **LAKE OF FIRE** to look forward to!

Now to Verses 9ff

**JOHN** is shown the **CITY** of **NEW JERUSALEM** and describes what he sees!

The **CITY** is described as having the glory of **GOD!** (*Vs 11*)

This **CITY** will be perfectly symmetrical. (*Vs 16*)  
(12,000 furlongs is equivalent to 1500 miles)  
1500 miles wide and 1500 miles long makes 2,250,000 square miles...  
1500 miles high which makes it 3,375,000,000 cubic miles in area!

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The world as we know it now, combining the areas of the seven continents, equals an area of 57,609,000 square miles.  
So, the area of the New Jerusalem will be over 58 times that amount!

So, there will be no shortage on space! Jesus said *John 14:2—“In my father's house there are many mansions”*.

It will be perfect, because of the perfect Architect designed and built it!

It will shine with the Glory of God like crystal so there is no need for a sun or moon. (*Vs. 11 ; 23 & 22:5*)

The walls are **jasper** and the city is of **pure gold** like unto clear glass. (*Vs. 18*)

The **gates are of pearl** (*Vs 21*) and the **foundation is of precious stones** (*Vs 19-20*).

There will be no Temple there because we will dwell in the very presence of God Almighty. (*Vs 22*)

There will be a **pure river of the water of life** proceeding out of the throne of God. (*22:1*)

There will be the **tree of life yielding twelve manner of fruit.** (*22:2*)

**JOHN** is using earthly things to describe a **HEAVENLY** place!  
The beauty of our **HEAVENLY HOME** is literally **indescribable!**  
Our finite minds cannot comprehend the brief glimpse of this place provided to us in the **SCRIPTURES!**

Conclusion

Listen, I don't know what kind of home that you may live in here. You may have a home that creaks and leaks! Rust and rot and termites may have taken their toll! It may not even be yours! But, if you are **IN CHRIST**, you can rest assured that there is a home waiting for you on the other side!

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You may never be able to own a home in this life!

But if you have been **BORN AGAIN** you hold a clear title to a **MANSION!**  
A magnificent **DWELLING PLACE!**

No landlord will ever bother you for the rent, there will be no mortgage to pay  
and no one will ever foreclose on that home that is waiting for you. It will be  
yours for **ALL ETERNITY!**

*WE HAVE THE HOPE OF A PRESENT REFUGE IN CHRIST!*

*WE HAVE THE HOPE OF A FUTURE RESIDENCE IN CHRIST!*

That is, ***IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST!***