

# The Thrill of Hope

Part 1 of the *Hope for All* sermon series

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Text: Luke 1:27-38, 42, 46-56

*Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.*

2 Sam 7:16

*You who are the hope of Israel, its Savior in times of distress, why are you like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who stays only a night? Why are you like a man taken by surprise, like a warrior powerless to save? You are among us, Lord, and we bear your name; do not forsake us!*

Jer 14:8–9

It can be a long wait from the place where “God promises” to the place where “God saves”.

The seeds of hope sometimes come packaged in a difficult challenge or hardship.

Hope is strengthened by surrounding yourself with hope-filled believers.

*And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”*

Luke 1: 46-56

In Scripture, hope isn't wishful thinking about what might happen. Instead, it's a confident, joy-filled anticipation of what God will do in the future based off what off who He is and what He's already done in the past.

If the past isn't giving you hope, you just need to look further back.

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

Matthew 1:21

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## Next Steps

- Download the *Youversion* app on your phone & find an Advent Bible reading plan to help you focus on Jesus during the Christmas season.
- Get together with your small group, your spouse, or your family and discuss these questions:
  - Do you remember a Christmas where you were hoping for a certain gift but didn't get it? Tell about it.
  - Would you consider yourself a hopeful person? Why or why not? Describe some areas where you find yourself hoping?
  - Read the story of Mary found in Luke 1:27-56. Notice the shift in Mary's outlook after she met with Elizabeth. How can Christian community help move you from despair to hope?
  - Where are you experiencing despair or hopelessness? Pray for hope.