

The Hope of Advent

Hope: A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.

Romans 8:20 (VOICE) **20** You see, all of creation has collapsed into emptiness, not by its own choosing, but by God's. Still He placed within it a *deep and abiding* hope.

I. Our Beginning.

Genesis 1:26 (NLT)

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings[a] in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,[b] and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

A. Our purpose.

Genesis 2:15 (NLT)

15 The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

1. We were created in God's image with delegated authority to co-reign with Him!
2. Notice the phrase, "with dominion", as in Gen. 1:26.
3. We were to "tend and keep" the garden.
4. Could it be that the "original sin" was allowing the serpent into the garden in the first place?

B. Our Fall.

Genesis 3:6 (NLT)

6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

1. Since everything was already provided by God in the garden, it seems man's issue was his "having another way" of doing things!
2. It says in very 7 that his "eyes were opened". According to the Hebrew, this indicates that man began to live by **reason!**
3. This is also when man began to **hide from God!** See verse 8.

C. Our Consequences.

Genesis 3:14-1 (NLT)

14 Then the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.

15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike[a] your head, and you will strike his heel.”

1. All of creation was cursed because of the Fall of Man!
2. Pain and weeds were caused by our actions!
3. God’s perfect creation became imperfect!

II. The Real Issue at Hand.

Genesis 3:24N (NLT)

24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

A. Since the Fall, man has strived to return to his original existence..... **a place of paradise!**

1. A place of companionship with his creator.
2. Being a part of something bigger than himself.
3. This deep desire of the **First Adam** can only be fulfilled by the action of the **Second Adam!**

B. The Song of Moses. **Preservation!**

Exodus 15:2 (NLT)

2 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him— my father’s God, and I will exalt him!
“Who is like you among the gods, O Lord— glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?”

12 You raised your right hand, and the earth swallowed our enemies.

13 “With your unfailing love you lead the people you have redeemed. In your might, you guide them to your sacred home.

C. The Song of David. **Passion!**

2 Samuel 22:2-4 (NLT)

2 He sang:

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviorHe is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. He is my refuge, my savior, the one who saves me from violence.

4 I called on the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies.

7 But in my distress I cried out to the Lord; yes, I cried to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry reached his ears.

8 “Then the earth quaked and trembled. The foundations of the heavens shook; they quaked because of his anger.

9 Smoke poured from his nostrils; fierce flames leaped from his mouth. Glowing coals blazed forth from him.

10 He opened the heavens and came down; dark storm clouds were beneath his feet.

11 Mounted on a mighty angelic being,^[a] he flew, soaring^[b] on the wings of the wind.

12 He shrouded himself in darkness, veiling his approach with dense rain clouds.

13 A great brightness shone around him, and burning coals^[c] blazed forth.

14 The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.

15 He shot arrows and scattered his enemies; his lightning flashed, and they were confused

D. The Song of Mary. **Provision!**

Luke 1:46-50 New Living Translation (NLT)

The Magnificat: Mary’s Song of Praise

46 Mary responded,
“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

48 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

49 For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.

50 He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.

Colossians 1:19-22 New Living Translation (NLT)

19 For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,

20 and through him God reconciled everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of
Christ’s blood on the cross.

21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.