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*This Christmas, with all the tragedy
and despair in our world right now...*

Do you need Hope?

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Do you need Hope?

On September 19, 2017, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake shook central Mexico, killing 370 people and injuring 6,000 more. This earthquake occurred 12 days after an 8.2 magnitude quake struck the Mexican state of Chiapas, which killed at least 98 people.



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Do you need Hope?



In the 2017 California wildfires, a total of 8,775 fires have burned 1,358,448 acres. The wildfires in the state's northern wine country started October 8, 2017, and have claimed at least 44 fatalities and destroyed 8,900 structures.



What is Hope?

To trust in, wait for, look for, or desire something or someone; or to expect something beneficial in the future.

Hebrew noun qawa **קָוָה**

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*This Christmas, with all the tragedy
and despair in our world right now...*

Do you need Hope?

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Where does the first Christmas story take place?

Israel in the time of Jesus

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Last week...

Hope Expects

Location: Nazareth

Passages: Luke 1:26-35

Matthew 1:18-25

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This week...

Hope Arrives

Location: Bethlehem

Passage: Luke 2:1-14

Meet Mary of Nazareth

- *Greek name Maria [Μαρία, Μαριάμ]
- *Hebrew name Miryam [מִרְיָם]; named after the elder sister of Moses and Aaron
- *As a young teenager, she was betrothed (Hebrew Erusin אֵירוּסַיִן) to Joseph
- *She was taught a woman's role in Jewish prayers and blessings, and like all Jewish people she was waiting for the promised Messiah
- *She is described as a “virgin” in Luke 1:27
- *She is called “favored one” of the Lord in Luke 1:28
- *The angel Gabriel said “the Lord is with you” in Luke 1:28

Meet Joseph of Nazareth

*He is betrothed to and later husband of Mary (Matthew 1:18)

*He is called a “righteous man” in Matthew 1:19

*He was by trade a carpenter or craftsman (Matthew 13:55)

*Carpenter = τέκτων tektōn in New Testament Greek

Definition: a worker in wood, a carpenter, joiner, builder; a ship’s carpenter or builder; any craftsman, or stone workman

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Luke 2:1-3

Do you need Hope?

When you are forced to take on new responsibilities that you did not ask for? When your peaceful life is replaced with stress and hardship?

Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. Luke 2:4-5

Do you need Hope?

When you begin to ask if God really keeps His promises?
When you wonder about your place in God's eternal plans? When you struggle in faith?

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Ancestors:

The "seed of a woman"

Descendent of Abraham

Descendent of Isaac

Descendent of Jacob

From the Tribe of Judah

Heir to the Throne of David

Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:23, Luke 1:27

Gen. 18:18, Acts 3:25

Gen. 17:19, Matt.1:2

Num. 24:17, Luke 3:34

Gen. 49:10, Luke 3:33

Isa. 9:7, Luke 1:32-33

Birth and Childhood:

Born in Bethlehem

To be born of a virgin

Time of His birth

Slaughter of the innocent children

Flight to Egypt

He shall be called a Nazarene

Micah 5:2 , Matt.2:1

Isa. 7:14, Matt.1:18

Dan. 9:25, Luke 2:1-2

Jer. 31:15, Matt.2:16

Hos. 11:1, Matt.2:14

Jud. 13:5, Matt.2:23

*Old
Testament
Prophecies*

Old Testament Prophecy

“There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.” Isaiah 9:7

Old Testament Prophecy

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.” Micah 5:2

- Micah singles out the *place* where the Messiah would be born, Bethlehem in Judah. At this time in Israel, there were two other Bethlehems in the land of Israel. One was in Lower Galilee in the tribal territory of Zebulun (Josh. 19:15). The other was in the territory of Benjamin, just north of Jerusalem. It was near this Bethlehem that Rachel was buried (Neh. 7:26; Gen. 35:16,19; 48:7; I Sam. 10:2; Jer. 13:4–7; 18:23).
- Micah describes God's *purpose* for the Messiah. He shall be a ruler in Israel. There is a day coming when the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, shall sit on the throne of His father David and reign over the House of Jacob forever (Luke 1:32,33, cf. 2 Sam. 7:12–17; Ps. 110).
- Micah describes the *person* of the Messiah. He was from of old, from everlasting. John begins his gospel with the eternality of the Lord Jesus (John 1:1–3,14).

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Caravans would travel about 20 miles in a day, and the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem (80-90 miles) would normally translate into a 4-day journey.

However, Mary (nearing her pregnancy term) would require more than 4 days for fear of miscarriage. So perhaps 7 days (or more) would have been needed. Source: <http://wiki.answers.com/>

In Jesus' day, Bethlehem was a village of less than 500 people.



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While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

Do you need Hope?

When life is more difficult than you expected? When other people reject you? When you trust God for a miracle but you have a hard time seeing the big picture?

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Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

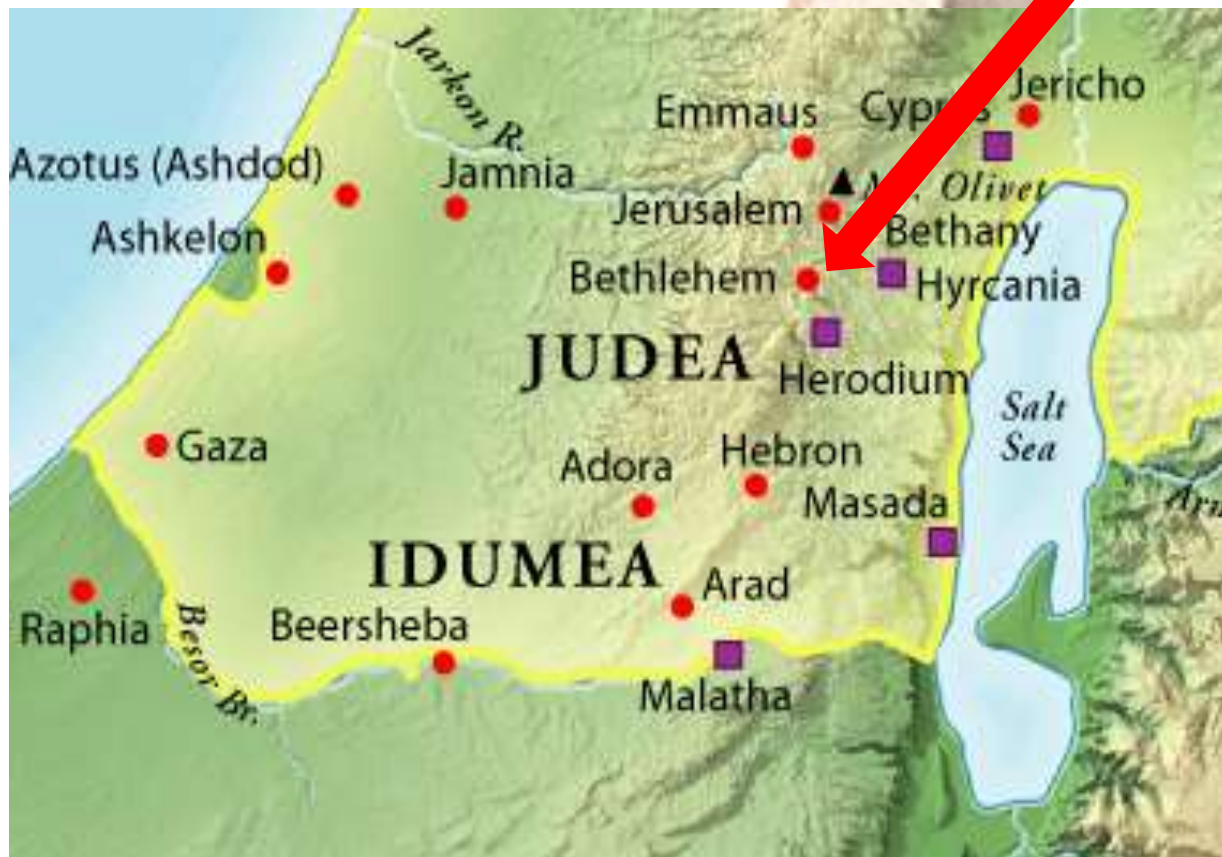
In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luke 2:8

Do you need Hope?

When you believe that you are the lowest people on the social scale? When you think that God values other people more than you?

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Fields where shepherds watched their flocks were just outside the village of Bethlehem, to the southeast.

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Shepherds' Field in Bethlehem



And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. Luke 2:9

Do you need Hope?

When you struggle with enough faith to believe that this really is God at work? When you want to believe but are not sure you can?

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And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. Luke 2:9

Why are we frightened?

- When God reveals Himself in amazing ways, we can no longer pretend that He is not real.
- When we witness God's awesome power, we get scared because maybe this whole thing is true and maybe my life needs to change accordingly.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10-12

Do you need Hope?

When you long for true joy but can't find it? When you are asking God for a sign of His love and mercy?

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But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

What do we need to hear this Christmas?

- Do not be afraid
- Good news for all people
- We can have great joy in the midst of crisis
- The Savior has arrived for you

Q: Why would God choose the shepherds to hear first?

- *They had no political influence
- *They had no wealth
- *They had little formal education
- *They were forgotten by most people
- *They were responsible for raising lambs for Passover sacrifices
- *Many Bible characters were shepherds who longed to see the Messiah... Adam, Abel, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Amos
- *They were told of the arrival of the Lamb of God

A: Christ's **Hope is offered to even the "least of these"**

And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Luke 2:13-14

Do you need Hope?

When you encounter the glory of God? When you see God keep His promises? When all of heaven gathers to glorify the Savior?

*What do the angels say?
What do we need this Christmas?*

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace** among men with whom He is pleased.” Luke 2:14 (NAS)

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace** to men on whom His favor rests.” Luke 2:14 (NIV)



How do we find Christmas peace?

“For it is for this we labor and strive,
because we have fixed our **hope** on the
living God, who is the Savior of all men”

1 Timothy 4:10

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*Is your Christmas
hope fixed on Jesus?*



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