

December 8, 2021

Celebrating the Promise of ADVENT: HOPE and JOY

Introduction: *Jesus entered our world as a baby with minimal fanfare, with mountains of hope placed on His shoulders. For centuries, the people of God clung to His promise of a Deliver, and at just the right time, Jesus arrived. We also find ourselves waiting on Jesus, eagerly anticipating His promised return. In this Advent study, I pray you will find encouragement for the wait in your life and trust God's promises and plan for you. As we prayerfully make this Advent journey together, I pray that we remember and celebrate God's kindness and trust God's faithfulness, even when the future seems uncertain. Yes, our HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE has come, and at just the right time, Jesus will be back. Will "you" be ready?*

Throughout the Old Testament many prophets, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah they knew would come. None of them knew when God's promise of a Savior would be fulfilled, but they kept trusting in God, because He is always faithful.



We all have things we're hoping for. Some of them we can write on our Christmas list, and maybe they'll appear under the tree. Other things we bring to God in prayer. But sometimes it's hard to stay hopeful when the thing you're waiting for isn't happening.

The Truth that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. John 1:9

*I pray that God, the source of **hope**, will fill you completely with **joy** and **peace** because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. — Romans 15:13 NLT*

Read: Isaiah 9: 2-7 and Read: Matthew 2:1-12

A time for Reflection on HOPE and JOY:

1. What kinds of things mark the start of the Christmas season for you?
2. What gives you hope/joy? What are you hoping/joyful for this holiday season?
3. Can you think of a time when something you'd been hoping for finally happened?
4. What do you do when you feel your hope/joy start to waver?

PRAY:

- Prayerfully consider the HOPE God brings to the world through Jesus and the hope we have in Jesus' promised return.
- Prayerfully consider the incomparable joy we can know in God alone.



Luke Ch. 8: *(The Second Tour of Galilee, The Parables of the Kingdom, The trip across the Sea of Galilee and Third trip to Galilee)* **(NO BIBLE STUDY Dec 22-29)**