

The Thrill of Hope

Advent 2017

December 17, 2017 – Joel Moses

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan – The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. - *Isaiah 9:1-7*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- *Romans 15:13*

“So here I wait in hope of You
Oh my soul's longing through and through
Dayspring from on high be near
And daystar in my heart appear

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Until Your love in me is born
And joyless is the evening sun
Until Emmanuel has come.”

- *Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

“...when it feels like life is a setup to let you down, we will whisper it to ourselves like a resuscitation:

‘Hope is not the belief that things will turn out well, but the belief God is working through all things, no matter how things turn out.’

You see: Hope is a defiant reliance on God keeping His Word....

And Advent is this baptism of eyes -- like a clear washing of eyes, so that we can get to see the wonder & joy & hope again.” - *Ann Voskamp*

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Ann Voskamp
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