

*Here with Us!*

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you." Luke 1:28 | Part 1

*Hope*

**Isaiah 9:2**

*<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.*

We need some good news these days.

Our lives are readjusted, put on hold and we have been separated from many of our loved ones.

Good news! Your problems will all be gone someday! I promise.

Can we hope with just a promise?

We question that idea because we are, by nature, logical, and practical beings.

We grow skeptical of promises; weary of waiting and discouraged while dealing with the strain of life - standing in the dark, waiting on someone to turn on the lights.

What gives us hope that builds trust in anyone or anything with any assurance?  
Not much...



But, even in our skeptical frame of minds we are likely to trust someone who has a history of fulfilling their promises.

Let's look at God's history with man:

1. Adam lost His physical connection with God by turning his back on Him. They were separated from their home, their garden, and all the comforts of their life.

Adam and Eve and all who were to follow were promised redemption from their sins.

*Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

This passage is a promise of the Messiah through the offspring of the woman – fulfilled in Jesus who has conquered death through the resurrection, the ultimate weapon of Satan.

1 Corinthians 15:58-59

*<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2. At a time when Israel was disobedient and turned from God they were told of their impending exile to Babylon – disconnected from routine, homes, and people.

Again, the Lord spoke to them with words of hope:

*Jeremiah 29:10-14 <sup>10</sup> "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*



God fulfilled that promise and brought His people back to the land that He had given to Abraham, then Isaac, and Jacob.

Psalm 31:24

*"Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!"*

3. While the world lives in spiritual separation, distant from God, He promises us that He will be with us.

The prophet Isaiah delivers this promise (7:14); *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us)."*

Even in the temple the people were separated from God by a veil, but God took that symbol down at the death of Jesus;

Hebrews 6:19-20

*"<sup>19</sup> We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf..."*

Jesus went where we could not, and links us to God through our loving relationship with Him.

1 Peter 1:3

*"<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..."*

4. Our Hope is made real by the One who lives in us.

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Romans 5:5

*"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."*

I can't promise you anything with certainty.

I couldn't personally deliver on anything – even if I desperately wanted to.

But, through the connection we have in Christ Jesus, by way of the His Holy Spirit living in us, we have this promise from One who is faithful – *"hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."*

Romans 15:13

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