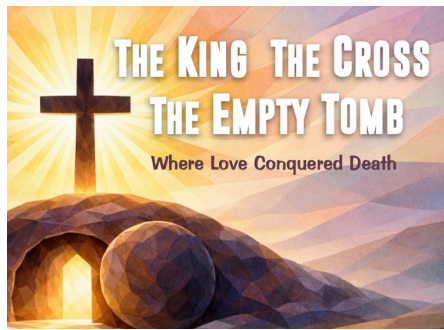


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Victorious King

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
Easter Sunday - April 5, 2026



Where are you looking for hope today?

- A **false hope is no hope at all—because it cannot give us true life.**

- The human **heart** requires hope.

- The **resurrection of Jesus** gives us true hope.

Luke 24:1–12 (NLT) “But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³ So they went in, but they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, ‘Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?’ ⁶ He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.’ ⁸ Then they remembered that he had said this. ⁹ So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. ¹¹ But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn’t believe it. ¹² However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.”

“Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?”

- The resurrection declares: **Jesus is King. Death is defeated. Love has won.**

1 Peter 1:3–5 (NIV) “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into **a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Colossians 1:27 (NIV) “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

“What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour—will last into God’s future.” N.T. Wright – Surprised by Hope

- **When we live with hope— we embody the love, mercy, justice, & beauty of Jesus.**
- **We are proclaiming: Jesus is alive & He is coming back to renew all things.**

Big Idea: Find true hope in Jesus—because He is our Living Hope.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Victorious King
#3 of 3 - April 5, 2026

Context

- 1) What are some of the common places people look for hope today and what do they all have in common?
- 2) In the story from 438 Days, what was the key difference between the two men, and how did hope (or lack of it) affect their outcomes? Can you think of other examples where the power of hope made a difference?

Observation

- 3) Read Luke 24:1–12. What were the women and disciples expecting to find at the tomb, and how does that shape the significance of the resurrection?
- 2) How does 1 Peter 1:3–5 describe the kind of hope believers have, and what makes it different from ordinary hope?

Meaning

- 5) What does the angel's question—“Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?”—reveal about where we often search for hope?
- 6) The message says, “A false hope is really a dead hope.” What does that mean theologically and practically for how we live?
- 7) Reflect on N.T. Wright's statement and discuss the implications for us as the people of God: *“What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour—will last into God's future.”* N.T. Wright – *Surprised by Hope*

Application

- 8) Where are you personally most tempted to place your hope right now, and how might that be shifting your trust away from Jesus?
- 9) If Jesus is truly our “Living Hope” (1 Peter 1:3-5), what would it look like this week to live as someone whose hope is anchored in Him—in your decisions, relationships, and daily life?



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