



Hope Is Born

Micah 7:18–20 • Series: The Story of Christmas • Adam Bailie • December 2, 2018

Big Idea

Eternal hope for sinful humanity is secured forever in the Christmas story.

Outline

Because Jesus was born...

1. God's pardon is now my privilege (18).
2. God's delight is now my distinction (18).
3. God's victory is now my vantage point (19).
4. God's faithfulness is now my foundation (20).

Reflect

- How does this passage anchor you in your true identity in Christ?
- When do you find it most difficult to believe that your sins are forgiven (pardoned, passed over, cast into the depths of the sea)? How does this passage minister to you?
- What would change if the steadfast love of God toward you was the thing that was most real to you?
- How might hope be seen through your life tomorrow?
- Are people asking you "for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15)? If not, why not? If so, are you ready to give the reason?

Pray

- Praise God for being a God who pardons iniquity. "Who is a God like you?"
- Pray that God's steadfast love for you, and the hope that you have in him, would be more real to you now than ever before.
- Ask God to help you to "always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

Discuss

- What does this passage have to do with Christmas?
- What is the rhetorical question at the beginning of verse 18 meant to communicate about God? How does this affect your worship of God?
- When the hope of this passage runs through our veins, how does it affect our lives? What changes when we live with hope that is rooted in God's steadfast love through Jesus?
- What are some ways this passage invigorates you as a witness for Christ? How does this passage motivate you to continue on mission?
- Every week at the close of our services we say, "You are loved." How does this passage fill in your understanding of those words so that they're never a mere platitude?