

# FIRM FOUNDATIONS

FOR LIVES OF FAITH



**“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,**

**“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia:  
All the kingdoms of the earth the  
LORD God of heaven has given me.  
And He has commanded me to build  
Him a house at Jerusalem which is in  
Judah. Who is among you of all His  
people? May the LORD his God be  
with him, and let him go up!”**

**2 Chronicles 36:22-23/Ezra 1:1-3**

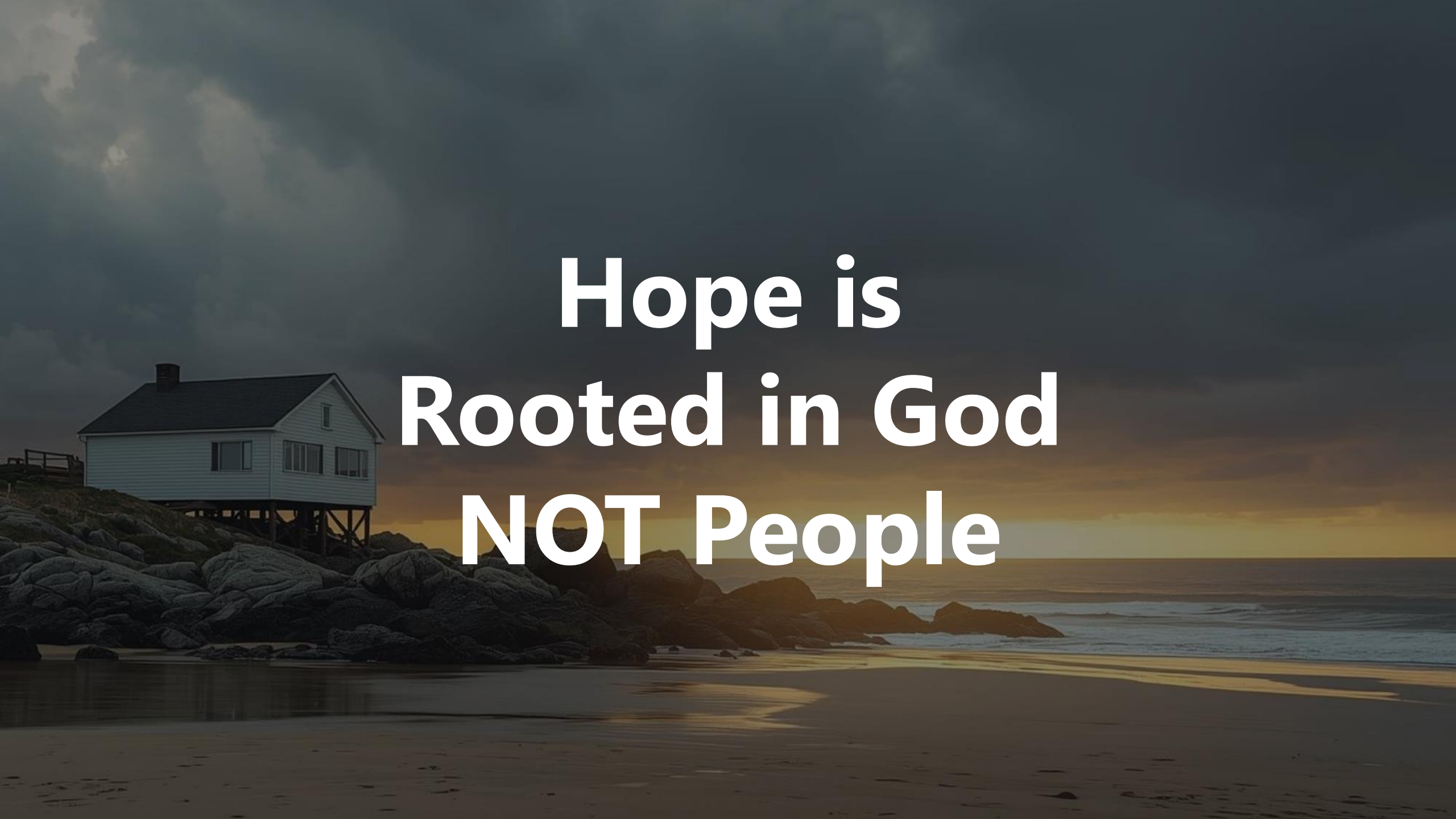
**“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you My promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”**

**Jeremiah 29:10-11**

**“Thus says the LORD,  
your Redeemer (vs 24)....  
who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my  
shepherd, and he shall fulfill all  
My purpose; saying of Jerusalem,  
She shall be built, and of the temple,  
‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”**

**Isaiah 44:28**



A coastal scene at sunset. On the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on wooden stilts over a rocky shore. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun visible on the horizon. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and the wet sand of the beach reflects the light. Overlaid on the right side of the image is large, bold, white text.

**Hope is  
Rooted in God  
NOT People**

A coastal scene at sunset. On the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on a rocky cliff. The house has several windows and a small chimney. The foreground is a sandy beach with some rocks. The ocean is visible in the distance, with waves breaking. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, and the sun is setting, creating a warm, golden glow on the horizon and reflecting on the wet sand. The title "Restoring Worship" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# Restoring Worship

**“And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,”**

**Ezra 3:10-11**



**“For He is good,  
for His steadfast love (ḥesed)  
endures forever toward Israel.”**

**Ezra 3:11**

**“and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.”**

**Ezra 6:15-16**

**“On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles kept the Passover. For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were clean.”**

**Ezra 6:19-20**



# Spiritual Renewal

**“this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the LORD, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.”**

**Ezra 7:6**



**“Then I proclaimed a fast there,  
at the river Ahava, that we  
might humble ourselves before  
our God, to seek from him a  
safe journey for ourselves, our  
children, and all our goods.”**

**Ezra 8:21**

**“For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands. And in this faithlessness the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost.”**

**Ezra 9:2**

**“As soon as I heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled. Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the faithlessness of the returned exiles, gathered around me while I sat appalled until the evening sacrifice.”**

**Ezra 9:3-4**

## Ezra Reminds Us:

- Hope after failure
- When you sin, humble yourself  
repent and come back to God
- Start with worship

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