

High Hopes Session 2 – Two Dimensions of Hope

I. Introduction

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) – *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11 (CSB) – *For I know the plans I have for you "--this is the LORD's declaration--" plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope*

Jeremiah 29:11 (GWT) – *I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD. They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope*

Recap:

- A. The Lord revealed his thoughts and plans for us in this passage.
- B. Thoughts of peace – wellbeing – success.
- C. His thoughts and plans are not for disaster, failure or evil.
- D. The Lord has a GOOD FUTURE planned for us.
- E. His plan includes HOPE – *thoughts and plans to give you a future filled with Hope.*
- F. Hope is a necessary part of a successful life.
 - 1. Hope is where my dreams reside.
 - 2. Hope is my goal setter for my future.
 - 3. Hope keeps me moving forward.

4. Without hope my life doesn't flow = stagnant.
5. To have a life that is advancing and ascending, I must have hope.
6. Last week, we discussed the importance of keeping your hopes up.
 - a. Many involved in sciences are seeing the importance of hope.
 - b. Hope is a factor in how quickly your body can heal itself.
 - c. Hope prepares our mind/brain to imagine all options for success.
 - d. Hopelessness prepares our mind/brain for failure.
7. Today, we will discuss two Dimensions of hope

II. Two Dimensions of Hope!

A. The hope of this world!

1. Natural Hope
2. Hope that is connected to the five senses
See, touch, hear, taste, smell.
3. This world's hope or natural hope is founded upon those things which are possible due to conditions provided by this world's system.
If I were to ask, "What are you hoping for" most answers would be connected to the hope of this world.
 - a. Finances – *Hope says, If I prepare myself and work hard, I will have a good income, own a home, car, etc. and have a 401K that will enable me to live comfortably throughout my senior years. (This is a reasonable hope based on how things occur in this world.)*
 - b. Health – *Hope says, medical science has many treatments and procedures that will enable me to overcome illness. Many treatment options are advancing daily to include what I am experiencing in my body.*
 - Supplements



- Exercise = Gym
This is a reasonable hope based on what we know about health in our world.
- c. Things left to chance – Hope says – *The unexplained may always occur. When there are no means of assistance provided by the systems of this world, CHANCE sometimes prevails. (This is not a reasonable hope based on the norms for our society but one cannot deny that sometimes the unexplained just occurs.*
 - *There are no treatments for a terminal illness and suddenly someone survives.*
 - *There is no explanation – why things worked out, but they did.*
 - *Even this world acknowledges that sometimes things just work out – this offers a limited level of hope.*

B. Hope in the realm of the Unseen World!

1. There is an unseen world/Another Dimension.
 - a. Two types of people on this planet
Those who believe that this is all there is.
Those who believe that there is a world beyond this world (That's Me).
 - b. Dimension – coordinates – a position in space or time.
Dimensions are different facets of what we perceive.
Parallel universe in science fiction movies.
Alternate Realities
 - c. Believers believe that there is another dimension.
 - *A spirit world*
 - *The world where God exists*
 - *The world of angels*
 - *Heaven*
 - *The unseen world*
 - d. While many say people in this world say that they do not believe in the unseen, it simply isn't true.
 - *Radio/Television signals*
 - *Cell phones*



2. Your hope will be connected to both worlds.
 - a. I have hope in the natural.
 - b. I have hope in the unseen world.

3. Your victory or your defeat on a personal level will be largely determined by which world has the greater influence on you.
 - a. The world that has the greater influence on you will influence your hope.
 - b. If I live only in the reality of the seen/natural world, my hope will be limited to what is possible only in the natural world.
 - c. If I dare live in the reality of the unseen world, my hope moves entirely to a different level.

I have moved my hope from what is possible in the natural realm to a hope of what is possible in the supernatural realm.

Yes, I am going to hope in the natural, but I am not allowing my hope to stop here.

I am going to hope beyond the natural and dare to believe in the God of the supernatural.

C. Two Scriptural Examples

1. **2 Kings 6:15-17 (NKJV)** – ¹⁵And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Elisha lives/hopes in the reality of the unseen world.

Elisha’s servant lives/hopes only in that which is seen/this worlds hope.

- a. **The example of two types of believers.**

Those who live/hope in the realm of the seen.

Those who live/hope in the reality of the unseen world.



- *Some believers today are filled with hope/joy/peace.*
- *Some believers today are filled with panic/fear/worry.*
- *Influenced by the wrong world.*
- *The world that influences you the most will determine the level of your hope.*

b. What makes the difference?

- *What you hear?*
- *What you see?*
- *What you meditate upon?*
- *What occupies the most time in your mind?*
- *Which world occupies your mind the most?*

c. Keys to being influenced by the unseen world.

- *Read and meditate upon what the Word of God says*
- *Church attendance*
- *Hearing the Word of God through teaching and preaching*
- *Fellowship with kingdom citizens*
- *Limiting the time spent in the reasonings and philosophies of this world*

2. Abraham's Experience with Two Types of Hope.

Romans 4:18-21 (NKJV) – ¹⁸*who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."* ¹⁹*And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.* ²⁰*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,* ²¹*and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

Contrary = KJV, Against "Who against hope, believed in hope"
NLT – "Even when there was no reason to hope"

3. Two Dimensions of Hope in this passage.

- a. Against hope = tied to human reasoning – hope that is eventually exhausted so that no hope remains



Abraham had some of this world's hope left. While Sarah was barren and unable to have a child, Abraham was still able to father children. (He fathered Ishmael by natural means with no help from God)

As the years past, Abraham lost the ability in the natural to father children, thus his natural hope was lost.

Romans 4:19 (NKJV) – *And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, **already dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb*

- b. In Hope Believed – Abraham had another realm of hope that took over when natural hope was exhausted.
*Contrary to hope, he went ahead and hoped.
When hope in the natural was lost, he allowed his hope to be re-directed to another realm
He and Sarah started their journey with a stronger connection to the realm of the seen.
But eventually the reality of the unseen world took over and influenced them more than what they could see.
Supernatural hope took over and put them over!*

III. Closing: It is time for the church to be more connected to the unseen world than that which is seen.

A. It is time for us to HOPE against HOPE!

B. It is time for us to move our hope from the natural realm to the unseen spiritual realm.

C. It is time for us to HOPE based on what God says more than what the world says.

D. I have HOPE!

- Hope beyond the news!
- Hope beyond the politics/Washington!
- Hope beyond the systems of this world!
- My hope is based on what God says about me!
- What God says about my future!
- He says some very good things!