

Tis the Season To Be Hopeful

Luke 2:39-40

Waiting is a major theme in the Scripture, especially related to Jesus the Messiah!

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” Luke 2:25

“Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.” Charles Wesley (1744)

“It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.’” Isaiah 25:9 –(About the 2nd coming, which still hasn’t come.)

“Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.” Psalm 33:20-22 – Wait with hope in him

Israel waited hundreds of years for their Messiah (400 silent years), and now he has ARRIVED with: the angelic messages to Joseph, Mary, and the Shepherds; the wonder and amazement of the people at the shepherd’s words; the star in the east for the magi bringing gifts; and the celebrations at the temple from Simeon and Anna. Immanuel, God with us, arrived as a baby in Bethlehem. Now it’s time, to wait with Hope.

Main Idea: The Birth of Jesus Reminds Us that Hope in God is Never Misplaced

Primary Text: *“And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.” Luke 2:39-40*

Tis the Season for Hope in Two Ways from Luke 2:39-40

- I. **Hope Obeys the Lord** – *“And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.” Luke 2:39*

After the birth of Jesus the shepherds went back to their sheep, the magi returned to the Far East and the Angels returned to heaven. Everyone in heaven and on earth had to wait for the Savior to save, for the Messiah to deliver, for miracles, signs, wonders, greatness, and life to change! For a while, things seemed to return to normal, and Jesus’ family settled into life again. Mary and Joseph handled this season of waiting obediently!

“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord’) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.’” Luke 2:21-24

Hope can be a noun (something you have) or a verb (something you do). The only way the New Testament uses the word “hope” is as a verb which means to *look forward with confidence to that which is good or beneficial*. We know if we are really HOPING in God when we are being obedient to God while we wait on him. Remain faithful in what you know (his word) while waiting for answers on what you do not know. That’s waiting with hope!

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation...And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” Hebrews 11:1-2, 6

The world waited hundreds of years for the arrival of Jesus, and now they would have to wait several more decades before he would do what he came to do! Will they wait with hope in God? Will we wait with hope in God? It will be obvious!

- II. **Hope Grows in the Lord** – *“And the child grew & became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.” Luke 2:40*

Much has been speculated on the childhood of Jesus, but all we really know is what the Scriptures tell us which is vs. 2:40!

“There are deep mysteries here that no one can fully understand or explain, but we have no problem accepting them by faith.” Warren Wiersbe

“There where no one expected anything of significance to happen, the son of Mary and Joseph who was also the Son of God grew up in the ways all children do...He gained physical strength. He was filled with wisdom, including intellectual abilities and knowledge but guided by the ‘fear of the LORD’...from childhood God’s loving presence filled Jesus’ life.” Trent Butler

“The intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth of the Child, like the physical, was real. His was a perfect humanity developing perfectly, unimpeded by hereditary or acquired defects. It was the first instance of such a growth in history. For the first time a human infant was realizing the ideal of humanity.” A.T. Robertson

For thirty years we know nothing about Jesus except that he was growing physically, mentally, and spiritually just as the Father intended. Jesus knew that he had come on mission, and that mission required him to be exactly what God made him to be, so he was dedicated to it from the very beginning!

Does God have you in a season of waiting? This is an invitation to wait with hope by growing in the Lord. A year from now or 2 or 5 or 20 years from now you will be

older. You will mature physically, mentally, but will you be more spiritually mature at that time?

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 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.” **Romans 5:3-5**

Main Idea: The Birth of Jesus Reminds Us that Hope in God is Never Misplaced

Tis the season to celebrate the birth of Jesus, which means tis the season for Joy, Mission, Gratitude, and Hope! If you have lost hope today, or have never experienced true hope (*to look forward with confidence to that which is good or beneficial*). It is available to you because of Christ!

“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 from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” **1 Peter 1:3-5**

This is what Jesus was born to do, and it’s available to you. Tis the Season!

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- CSB Study Bible – Trevin Wax (2017)
- Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- God the Son Incarnate: The Doctrine of Christ – Stephen J. Wellum (2016)
- The Gospel of Luke – William Barclay (1975)
- New American Commentary: Luke – Robert H. Stein (1992)
- Holman NT Commentary: Luke – Trent C. Butler (2000)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- Tony Evans Study Bible – Tony Evans (2019)
- Tyndale Bible Dictionary – Walter Elwell (2001)