

THE LONG JOURNEY

Matthew 1:1-17

SERMON SUMMARY:

The story of Christmas can be summed up in John Dwight's lyric from *O Holy Night*, "the weary world rejoices." Though the Israelites were losing hope as the centuries passed, their weariness could not swallow their joy at Jesus' coming. Today we begin our Christmas series as we find ourselves in the same tension: holding on to hope in the midst of weariness.

SERMON OUTLINE:

The Journey Home

Just as a light in the window helps us see the end of the journey, God's promises were hope to his people in the midst of weariness.

Three Main Acts

Abraham: Jesus fulfilled the promise for a great nation.

David: Jesus fulfilled the promise for a true king.

Exile: Jesus fulfilled the promise for a deliverer.

Application

Interpret each moment in light of God's grand story.

Cultivate hope by clinging to God's promises.

THINK ABOUT IT/TALK ABOUT IT:

- What causes us to be weary in this world?
- Why did Matthew start his gospel with a genealogy?
- What can we learn about Jesus from Matthew's genealogy?
- Why must we keep God's grand story in mind as we go through life?
- Why do we seem to struggle to be filled with hope? How can we get better at that?
- What is one thing you took from today's message that you want to apply to your life?
- Who is someone that needs to hear that hope is available to them, and what can you do about that?