

April 8, 2018
HOPE RISING - Part 2
"Our Struggle for Hope"

Proverbs 13:12 (ESV): "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life."

We all need hope, but we need *real* hope, living hope, and not false hope.

Jeremiah 27:1 (ESV): "In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD."

Timeline (B.C.)

605	601	597	587/586
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God had warned that because of Judah's apostasy, its turning away from God to worship other gods, He was going to send the Babylonians to conquer them.

Jeremiah 27:2 (ESV): "Thus the LORD said to me: 'Make yourself straps and yoke-bars, and put them on your neck.'"

God is saying He can use the Babylonians, who don't even believe in Him, to accomplish His purposes.

God particularly warns Judah not to listen to others claiming to be prophets who are telling people what they want to hear.

Jeremiah 27:14-15 (ESV): "'¹⁴Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are saying to you, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon,' for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you. ¹⁵I have not sent them, declares the LORD, but they are prophesying falsely in my name, with the result that I will drive you out and you will perish, you and the prophets who are prophesying to you.'"

Jeremiah 28:1-4 (ESV): "¹In that same year... Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, ²'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. ³Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD's house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. ⁴I will also bring back to this place... all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, declares the Lord, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'"

Jeremiah knows it's not his responsibility to tell people what they want to hear but to face the truth and speak what God tells him to say.

Jeremiah 28:10-11 (ESV): “¹⁰Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke-bars from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke them. ¹¹And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years.’ But Jeremiah the prophet went his way.”

Jeremiah 28:12-17 (ESV): “¹²...the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ¹³‘Go, tell Hananiah, “Thus says the LORD: You have broken wooden bars, but you have made in their place bars of iron....”’ ¹⁵And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah, ‘Listen, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. ¹⁶Therefore thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against the LORD.”’ ¹⁷In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.”

Sometimes it's hard to hear the truth, but there are consequences that catch up with us when we just pretend it's not so.

Judges 21:25 (ESV): “...Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

2 Timothy 4:3 (NLT): “For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.”

Three Kinds Of “Hope” We Often Wrongly Claim:

- Wishful Thinking
- Blind Hope
- Hopeful Dreams

Many people think hope is something they do, but when you look at hope in the Bible, you see that it's something we can have.

1 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV): “³Blessed 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, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you”

What really matters is Who is the source and ground of our hope – can He be trusted?
Hebrews 6:19 (NIV): “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure...”

God entered into our story through His Son Jesus Christ, and, through his resurrection, shown us we can choose to have “a living hope”!

Romans 8:35-39 (ESV): “³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?...
³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”