

**Good Morning TAC! Today is Sunday, May 24, 2026, and as always, what a joy it is to be together as one family in this house and lift up the name of Adonai. Church, we have a word for you today that the Lord has been burning on our hearts, and we are eager to share what He has been speaking. We believe this is not simply a message meant to give us more information, but a word that is meant to incline our hearts, to warn our souls, and to direct our strength into practical obedience.**

**Today we want to charge every one of you here to push off all distractions, all worries, any other thoughts or concerns that are working to compete for your attention, because the Word of God is demanding our full attention.**

**Before we dive into the message for today, We want to recap what we learned last week from Pastor Peter's Sermon**

**READ SLIDE**



**What Is Your Hope In?**

**What a powerful and timely word that was delivered to us by our pastor! Out of the many incredible passages and truths that were placed before us that Sunday, listen carefully again to what Psalm 119:116 says:**

**Psalm 119:116 (ESV)**

**116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,  
and let me not be put to shame in my hope!**

**What an absolutely incredible passage, and one that is true for each of us here today. In this message, we saw the testimony of Pastor Peter and the entire Allen family put on display as they have walked through medical and health difficulties, various kinds of trials, and unmet expectations, YET...in the midst of all this, they discovered what it truly means to possess an imperishable and immovable hope in the Lord. We were reminded how easy it can be for our hopes to become dashed when they are anchored to uncertain things—shifting circumstances, desired outcomes, temporary situations, or even the way we believe our lives should unfold.**

**We were also confronted with the reality that one of the greatest idols we often carry is our own expectations, because when our hopes become rooted in anything other than God Himself, deferred hopes will leave our hearts sick, and what we continue striving to carry can become a wearisome task and oppressive burden.**

**Through both Pastor Peter's testimony and the Scriptures, we learned the true distinction between sound, biblical hope and mere expectation. Biblical hope is not built upon circumstances changing in our favor, but rather our hope is a secure confidence in the redemptive acts of God, founded upon His unchanging character, promises, and faithfulness, with a certainty that we will experience His goodness both now and in the future.**

**We also witnessed this reality on display last week through the brave families who stepped forward for prayer—families fighting for children while walking through seasons of waiting. To those families, we want to say that we are proud of you and that your lives are living testimonies of this kind of Hope and God is using you to strengthen others around you to do the same.**

**So Church, as we move forward today, we want you to know that we are not moving on from this theme of hope. We believe the Lord is still speaking through what was shared last week, and He is not finished yet. Pastor Peter laid a foundation before us, and today we want to continue building on that foundation because there is more for us to see, more for us to understand, and more for us to walk out, as we press deeper into what true biblical hope really looks like!**

**Are you guys ready for our sermon title?**

**The title of today's message is..**

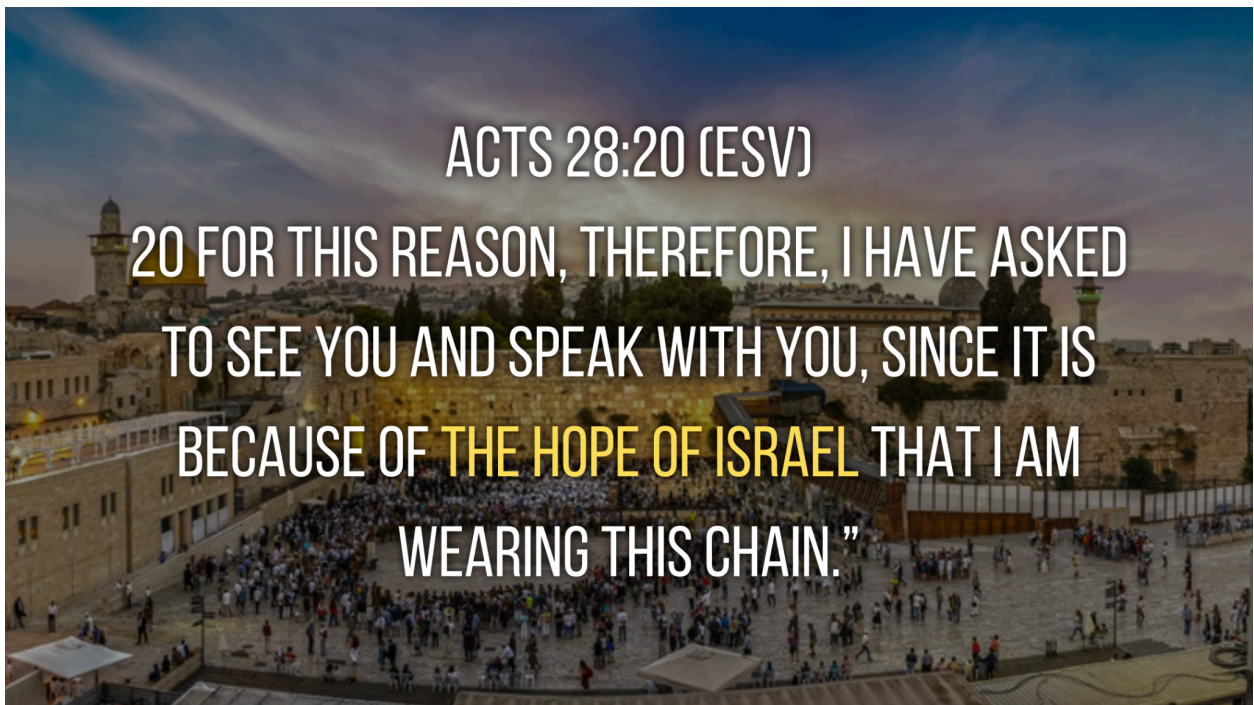


# THE HOPE OF ISRAEL

ACTS 28:20

Let's turn in our bibles to Acts 28:20, say Hope of Israel as you are turning there.

(READ SLIDE)



ACTS 28:20 (ESV)

20 FOR THIS REASON, THEREFORE, I HAVE ASKED  
TO SEE YOU AND SPEAK WITH YOU, SINCE IT IS  
BECAUSE OF THE HOPE OF ISRAEL THAT I AM  
WEARING THIS CHAIN.”

**This is an incredible statement! Paul states that his suffering — death threats, slandering, false accusations, and imprisonment was for the sake of the hope of Israel!**

**Church, today we are going to expand and deepen our understanding of biblical hope. We are going to see that hope is greater than simply what God is doing in our personal lives, because the hope set before us today—the Hope of Israel—is rooted in the greater story of God’s redemptive plan throughout all of Scripture.**

**Let's turn to the first chapter of Ephesians in verse 16.**

**Ephesians 1:16–18 (NIV)**

**16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,**

**Paul is praying that eyes of their hearts would be ENLIGHTENED so they would know "what is the hope" to which they were called.**

**Paul is praying that the eyes of their hearts would be ENLIGHTENED so they would know “*what is the hope*” to which they were called. Church, do we want to know the hope to which we have been called? Do we want our eyes opened to see it more clearly? Then this should become our prayer as well—that the Lord would enlighten our hearts, expand our understanding, and give us eyes to truly see what He has set before us.**

**(PRAY)**

Paul does not move on from this topic of Hope in Chapter one, he continues to speak on it in Chapter 2. Let's turn to Chapter 2 of Ephesians in Verse 12.

- Ephesians 2:12 (LSB)

12     *remember* that you were at that time without Christ, alienated from the citizenship of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**REMEMBER!**

Paul commands you to REMEMBER that before the Messiah you were completely separated from all HOPE!

This was your state! Whether you recognize it or not. This is a reality of life. There are no exceptions.

Let's see if Paul continues to speak about hope... Maybe he'll triple down or even quadruple... We will see...

- Ephesians 4:4 (LSB)

4     *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

In Ephesians 4, Paul explicitly states that we were called to ONE hope. If you have been called, you have one hope. Paul certainly thought that it was important that the believers in Ephesus understood the Hope they were called to.

Furthermore let's read another passage in Colossians to grasp the importance of this hope and where this hope now resides.

- Colossians 1:3–5 (NIV)

**3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—5 the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel**

**These verses together paint a beautifully important picture for us, church!**

- **This is a hope which your heart must be enlightened to.**
- **You were completely without this hope!**
- **There is one hope.**
- **This hope is the driving force for your actions and is laid up for you in heaven.**

**Keep all that in mind as we dive into a few historically significant aspects of this week and how they tie to the hope that we are discussing.**

**Shavuot:**

**This week is Shavuot or Pentecost!**

**When you think about Shavuot (also called Pentecost) what comes to mind?  
(wait for response)**

**Those of you who paid close attention to the Exodus study said 'the giving of the law'! This was the first great event that happened on Pentecost! Others of you stated the spirit being poured out on the apostles, this also happened on Pentecost.**

**What other things happened on Pentecost??**

**(Read Slide)**

# Shavuot History:

- The law given to Israel on Sinai Ex 20:1
- An Israeli wedding celebration Ex 24
- All Israel unites in commitment to Adonai Ex 19:5-6
- Adonai appears out of deep darkness Ex 20:18
- All Israel heard the voice of God together Ex 20:19
- King David's Birth and Death Tradition
- The Spirit poured out on the Jewish disciples Acts 2

When thinking of Pentecost, these are all things that should come to mind.

Not only does this feast celebrate events from Israel's past, it also looks forward, in hope, to events that are yet to come!

(Read Slide)

# Shavuot Parallels:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| • Law written on the Jews hearts                  | Jer 31:33    |
| • An Israeli wedding celebration                  | Isa 25:6-12  |
| • All Israel will know Adonai                     | Jer 31:34    |
| • Adonai appears out of deep darkness             | Joel 3:15-16 |
| • All Israel will hear the voice of God together  | Eze 20:35-36 |
| • Davidic King will reign in Jerusalem            | Jer 30:8-9   |
| • The Spirit will be poured out all twelve tribes | Zec 12:10-14 |

Each one of the events of Pentecost that occurred in the past, point to a hope of a future fulfillment that will be even greater!

When thinking about present and future Shavuot, we want you to notice something... Both slides only speak of events pertaining to Israel and their promises. This may bring up the question, were am I in this story???

We're glad you asked:

In the first Pentecost on mount Sinai, you were the mixed multitude, the one who was part of an oppressive country, but through faith, chose to leave your national identity to join with God's people Israel. Consider this in light of

- Ephesians 2:12–13 (ESV)

12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

The mixed multitude was separated from Moses, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers to God's promises to Israel, their only hope was the strength of their country and that hope was being dashed to pieces. These mixed multitudes were hopeless... Until they joined themselves to the hope of God's people. How did they join to God's nation? Through the blood of the lamb painted on their doorpost.

(Do Not Read)

## Shavuot History:

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Through this act of faith, the gentile multitude got to be there as the law was given, they got to take part in the Israeli wedding celebration, they too committed to following Adonai, they got to see Adonai flashing forth through the thick darkness, they heard the voice of God from mount Sinai.

This mixed multitude was given blessing beyond belief as they joined with Israel, but this blessing could never have been achieved without Israel!

**You TOO, before you believed had no hope and did not have God in this world, but now, you have hope.**

**(Do Not Read)**

## **Shavuot Parallels:**

- |   |              |
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**God is faithful to write the law on YOUR heart along with his people Israel, you get to look forward to an Israeli wedding celebration that you can take part in! You get to know Adonai along with all Israel. You will see Adonai when he returns shining forth out of darkness. You will hear God's voice in the end.**

**Through Jesus' blood, you have been included in the hope of Israel!**

**Everything on this slide would have been on the mind of the Apostle Peter as he is giving his sermon on Pentecost, lets read a portion of it!**

- **Acts 2:34–36 (ESV)**

**34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,**

**“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at my right hand,  
35 until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’**

**36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”**

**This passage is on the Apostle Peter's mind as he is doing the work of being a witness in Jerusalem.**

**We want to focus in on this passage which is quoted 30 times in the New Testament.**

**Peter references Psalm 110, look at the next verse regarding the promise of the Messiah.**

- **Psalm 110:2 (LSB)**

**2 Yahweh will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion,  
*saying,*  
“Have dominion in the midst of Your enemies.”**

**The Messiah will reign in Zion and have dominion in the midst of His enemies.**

- **Where is Zion?**
- **Where are the enemies?**

**We know from the rest of scripture this will take place on earth.**

- **Zion is not just some ethereal place, it is Jerusalem.**
- **His enemies are on the earth.**

## WHERE IS ZION?

Psalm 48:1–2 (ESV)

1 Great is the LORD and greatly  
to be praised  
in the city of our God!

His holy mountain, 2 beautiful  
in elevation,  
is the joy of all the earth,

Mount Zion, in the far north,  
the city of the great King.

## WHERE ARE HIS ENEMIES?

Isaiah 34:5 (ESV)

5 For my sword has drunk its fill in  
the heavens;

behold, it descends for judgment upon

Edom,

upon the people I have devoted to  
destruction.

- Psalm 48:1–2 (LSB)

1 Great is Yahweh, and greatly to be praised,  
In the city of our God, His holy mountain.

2 Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth,  
Is Mount Zion *in* the far north,  
The city of the great King.

- Isaiah 34:5 (LSB)

5 For My sword is satiated in heaven;  
Behold, it shall descend for judgment upon Edom  
And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.

So we have a slide to pull this all together for you.

The point is there is an anticipation from the apostles that Messiah would come back to make His enemies a footstool and would then reign from Zion in a restored kingdom under the Messiah.

(Explain Slide)

## Sit At My Right Hand

**Right hand of the father in heaven**

**Reigning from Zion**

**Psalm 110:1-2 (LSB)**

1 Yahweh says to my Lord:  
“**Sit at My right hand**  
Until I put Your enemies as a  
footstool for Your feet.”

2 Yahweh will stretch forth  
Your strong scepter from Zion,  
saying,  
“Have dominion in the midst of  
Your enemies.”

- Consider Revelation 22:1-5 about the new heaven and new earth and the city of Jerusalem being established as heaven and earth collide!
- In Matthew 6:10 when Jesus tells His disciples to pray "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on EARTH as it is in HEAVEN."

This is what scripture has been teaching the whole time and what the Apostles hope was in. The Kingdom of heaven descending to earth! This kingdom that is the collision and unification of heaven and earth IS the kingdom of Israel, in the physical land of Israel.

Turn in your Bible to Acts 1:6.

- **Acts 1:6 (LSB)**

**6** So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

**This is what they were expecting! After 3 years of discipleship with Jesus, after they had seen the resurrected Messiah, they ask this question. When we examine the entirety of scripture their question becomes incredibly valid!**

**Look at Jesus' response:**

- **Acts 1:7-8 (LSB)**

**7** But He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set by His own authority;

**8** but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the end of the earth.”

**The time for the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel has been set. Jesus doesn't tell them they are missing it (something Jesus has done before!), He refocuses them on the task at hand. To be His witnesses on the earth.**

**The hope had not shifted from a restored Kingdom. The apostles simply were focused on being witnesses until the Kingdom was restored!**

**We are going to examine the scriptures from beginning to end to show you how the hope of Israel has ALWAYS been in the restored Kingdom, fulfilling the promises of God.**

**Before we jump into that, there may be a few of you thinking of the many times in scripture when it explicitly states that our hope is in the resurrection. And you would be 100% right. The fuller picture is resurrection and the restored Kingdom from Zion go hand-in-hand.**

**This message is not to diminish the resurrection, but to enrich the meaning of the resurrection.**

**We are going to go through several scriptures starting in the Law that speak to the hope of the restored Kingdom.**

**This is prophesied as far back as the book of Numbers.**

- **Numbers 24:17–19 (NIV)**

**17 “I see him, but not now;  
I behold him, but not near.  
A star will come out of Jacob;  
a scepter will rise out of Israel.  
He will crush the foreheads of Moab,  
the skulls of all the people of Sheth.  
18 Edom will be conquered;  
Seir, his enemy, will be conquered,  
but Israel will grow strong.  
19 A ruler will come out of Jacob  
and destroy the survivors of the city.”**

**Notice that from Israel a ruler will rise up and the nation of Israel will grow strong. Notice that he will destroy the enemy city!**

**This is clear language promising a physical kingdom to be given to Israel. It was far off, yet did that make it any less true?**

**Let's look at the prophets.**

- **Ezekiel 39:25–27 (ESV)**

**25 “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. 26 They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, 27 when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies’ lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations.**

**When the disciples are asking about the Kingdom being restored to Israel, they are not off-base. The promise that the kingdom of Israel will be restored is clear throughout the scriptures!**

**This is prophesied to happen when Israel is at its darkest moment! Not to mention Ezekiel is prophesying it to Israel while they are in captivity! The restoration of the kingdom is supposed to be a security, a hope to hold on to in times of trial.**

**Notice here that the restoration of the nation of Israel is what vindicates the name of the LORD!**

**Our hope as gentiles is that Israel WILL dwell securely without shame and without fear.**

**That they WILL be gathered back, restored, and the holiness of God WILL be vindicated.**

- **Jeremiah 33:14–16 (ESV)**

**14 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely.**

**And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'**

**A righteous Branch has indeed begun to spring up for David! We know this branch to be Jesus, the Jewish Messiah!**

**Notice what it says Jesus will do, he will rule over Israel as a righteous judge causing them to dwell securely!**

**When we read this passage, our hope as gentiles is that justice and righteousness WILL be executed in the land of Israel. That Judah and Jerusalem WILL be saved and WILL dwell securely. This is the hope of the apostles and it is what we can be certain of!**

- **Daniel 7:27 (NIV)**

**<sup>27</sup> Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'**

**If you read the context of Daniel, it is clearly speaking about a national restoration... A kingdom being given to Israel!  
All kingdoms handed over to the holy people.**

**This is being prophesied when Israel has been taken into captivity and the temple is destroyed! Whenever things are dark for Israel, God reminds them that he will restore the kingdom in Israel!**

- **Luke 1:30–33 (ESV)**

**30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb**

**and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”**

**Before Jesus was even born, Mary was being told He would reign over the Kingdom of Israel forever. The Throne of David would be given to Him in Jerusalem!**

**Last week you were told your hope must be in Adonai's redemptive acts in your life. That is aimed at the resurrection of the dead AND the restoration of the Kingdom.**

- **Romans 11:26–27 (ESV)**

**26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,  
“The Deliverer will come from Zion,  
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;**

**27 “and this will be my covenant with them  
when I take away their sins.”**

**Notice that the deliverer is in Zion and He is actively redeeming Jacob by removing their sins and making a covenant with them! And ALL Israel will be saved!**

**This was the hope of the first century believers, and it is our hope as well!**

**This is the hope for which Paul was suffering as we read in Acts 28:20!  
Do not be deceived, if you have the same hope... you will suffer for the sake of the hope of Israel.**

**Consider this in light of a passage from last week**

- **Hebrews 6:19–20 (ESV)**

**19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.**

**In Hebrews 6, the writer states that hope is the anchor of the soul.**

**Now why do you need an anchor for hope?**

**Why does a boat need an anchor?**

**Because there are winds and waves that will try and drift you away from where you need to be.**

**This can look like — useless speculations regarding current state of Israel (that - by the way... do not nullify the promises of God) OR the cares of this world for self-preservation that keep you from speaking when you must speak on behalf of the promises of God. No matter how difficult it gets, or how much you must suffer for the promises of God to be established—you must make the hope of Israel the anchor of your soul.**

**This is how you will be able to suffer for the Kingdom of God.**

**Here is the thing. When you hear someone speaking against Israel's restoration, that person in the moment is speaking against not just Israel — They are going against the very promises of God.**

**We must speak. We cannot afford to be silent.**

**We want to be clear that things will get darker for Israel, and the promises will look further away than ever in the days to come! Consider the following:**

- **Luke 21:20–22 (ESV)**

**20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea**

**flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, 22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.**

**Jesus is talking about a time when Jerusalem will be surrounded. To show you just how terrible this day will be consider a verse from Zechariah:**

- **Zechariah 14:2 (ESV)**

**2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.**

**Jerusalem will be surrounded, horrors beyond belief will be committed and half of the city will go back into exile!**

**Listen to what happens precisely at Israel's worst moment:**

- **Joel 3:16 (ESV)**

**16 The LORD roars from Zion,  
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,  
and the heavens and the earth quake.**

**But the LORD is a refuge to his people,  
a stronghold to the people of Israel.**

**Precisely when all hope seems lost and all is dark both physically and spiritually, at that very moment, Christ shines forth like the sun, roaring like a lion to restore the kingdom to Israel!**

**This is the moment we are holding out hope for! Consider what Luke says about it:**

- **Luke 21:27–28 (ESV)**

**27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”**

**Jesus instructs his Jewish disciples to 'straighten up' and 'raise up their heads' as they see these terrible signs approaching, because these signs are the prerequisite to the fulfilment of their hope, the resurrection of the dead and restoration of the kingdom of Israel.**

**As we see the days getting darker, we must deepen our convictions and strengthen our hope in the work of Jesus! We must encourage each other to hold strong until a perfect kingdom is established on the earth, the kingdom of Israel governed by Jesus himself!**

**Can you see how even in these verses we are seeing the hope that is laid up in heaven descending on the earth?**

**We are all waiting on the second coming of Jesus, but to what end???**

**It is because through Him, He will establish justice on the earth! AND He will do this by restoring the Kingdom of Israel on the earth.**

**We want to return to this verse we read in Ephesians 2 at the beginning of the message is becoming more and more meaningful?**

- **Ephesians 2:12-13 (LSB)**

**12     *remember* that you were at that time without Christ, alienated from the citizenship of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.**

**13     But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

**But now in Christ! You, gentile believer are given a hope! But that Hope is the Restoration of the Kingdom of Israel. This is the Hope we are waiting for the resurrection of the dead to establish.**

**And you should all be well familiar with Romans 11:15 by now.**

- **Romans 11:15 (LSB)**

**15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will *their* acceptance be but life from the dead?**

**Israels full acceptance of the Messiah means life from the dead and the restored Kingdom to Israel...**

**So as a gentile believer, we cannot take the attitude of "we hope the best for them". But we only participate in the kingdom through their salvation. Our destiny, the of the gentile believer is intertwined with the destiny of Israel.**

**As you read passages like Revelation 21:2-5, we see a heavenly kingdom colliding with earth and listen to the things that happen on that day.**

- **Revelation 21:2–5 (LSB)**

**2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.**

**3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,**

**4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain. The first things passed away."**

**5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."**

- **God is with His people again!**

- He will wipe away every tear!
- There is no more death!
- No more mourning!
- No more crying!
- No more pain!
- He is making ALL things new!

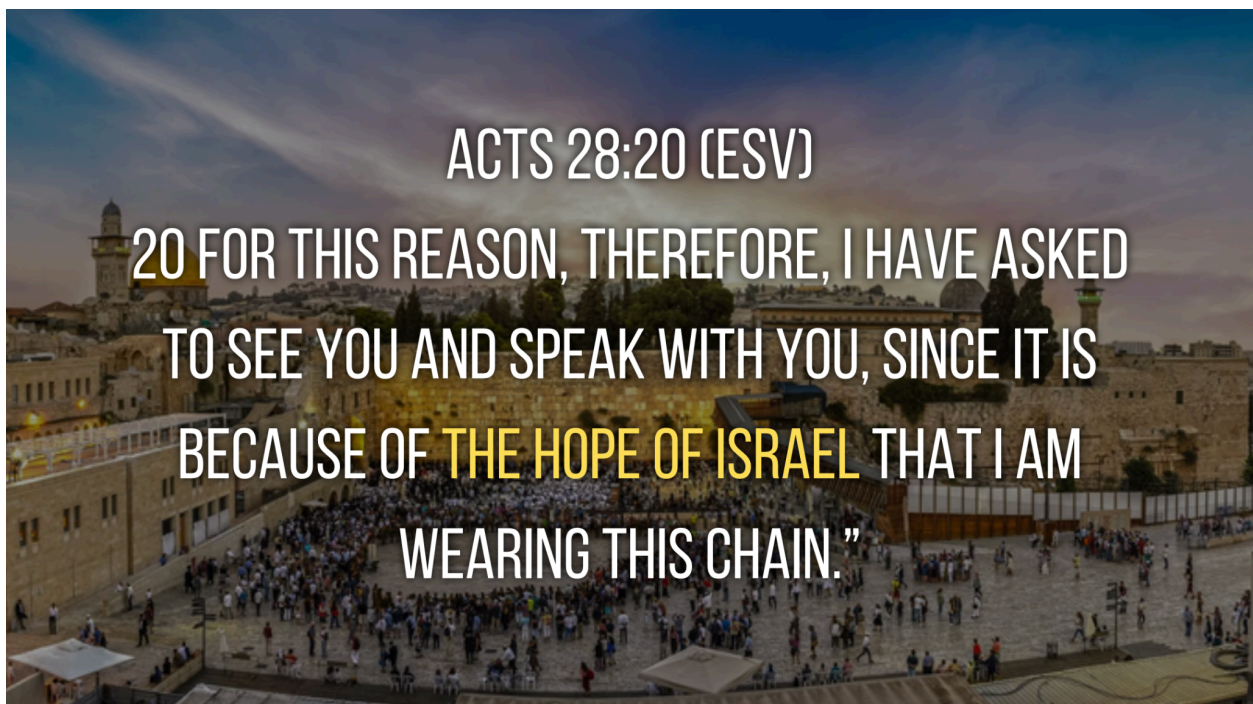
Man, when I read this passage it's hard to not have an intense longing for the Kingdom of Israel to be restored!

It drives me to the place where I have developed the conviction for me and my family that this is a Hope worth dying for and living for!

Regardless of the cost, this is the hope we all eagerly await!

So church, as we come to a close—meditate on this passage we started with.

(READ SLIDE)



It is for the sake of the Hope of Israel that Paul was willing to suffer greatly.

**Are you willing to suffer for the Hope of Israel, saints?**

**We are becoming a body that is increasingly willing to suffer for our older brother Israel as our hearts are increasingly becoming enlightened to the Hope of our calling, the hope of the restoration of Israel!**

- **Daniel 6:10 (ESV)**

**10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.**

**As Daniel knew he was about to suffer and be thrown into the lions den, he kneels down with a window opened toward Jerusalem to pray. Why towards Jerusalem? Because he understood that his hope was in the restored kingdom of Israel. Daniel knew the hope he was called to and would not let go of that hope even if it meant being thrown into the lion's den. He had practiced that hope by praying facing Jerusalem day after day when things were easy, and so he was strong in the hope when things got hard!**