

# Eschatology and Hope

## Hope

Definition: a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen

A or D: **Hope is a psychological necessity? (Why?)**

**Did you know that many secular thinkers in the ancient world did not regard hope as a virtue, but merely as a temporary illusion?**

Look up **Ephesians 2:12** and **1 Thessalonians 4:13** – **What would you say is missing in the lives of these folks with no hope?**

**Why is belief in a living God essential for long lasting hope?**

- A living God acts and intervenes in human life
- He can be trusted to implement his promises

**If there is no living God, where does one go to find hope? How might that look in our world today?**

Biblical hope, though, is not a matter of temperament, nor is it based on the condition of prevailing circumstances or human possibilities. It does not depend upon what a man possesses, or what he may be able to do for himself, or what another human being may be able to do for him. It becomes an “anchor of the soul” as described in Hebrews 6:19.

Look at **Romans 4:18** – **What do you think this verse is getting at?** (May need to read further 19-21)

*“His faith flew in the face of that hope which is founded on the evidence of reason and common sense – ‘hope’ as we often use the word (‘I hope to win the lottery’). Yet his faith was firmly based on the hope that springs from the promise of God. We note here that Abraham’s faith is not described as a ‘leap into the dark,’... but as a ‘leap’ from the evidences of his senses into the security of God’s word and promise.” – Douglas Moo, Romans, pgs. 282-283*

**From this passage, how are hope and faith related?** (They are inseparable...)

When we talk about faith and hope, **what other word in Scripture often finds itself with these two words?** (Love)

**How do these three words relate to our topic of Eschatology?**

*It is interesting that “there are no explicit references to hope in the teaching of Jesus. He teaches his disciples, however, not to be anxious about the future, because that future is in the hands of a loving Father. He also leads them to expect that after his resurrection renewed spiritual power will be available for them, enabling them to do even greater works than he did, to overcome sin and death, and to look forward to sharing his own eternal glory.”*

New Bible Dictionary, p. 489

*“The existence of this hope makes it impossible for the Christian to be satisfied with transient joys (Heb. 13:14); it also acts as a stimulus to purity of life (1 Jn. 3:2-3) and enables him to suffer cheerfully.”*

New Bible Dictionary, p. 489

*“Because of what God has done in the past, particularly in preparing for the coming of Christ, and because of what God has done and is now doing through Christ, the Christian dares to expect future blessings at present invisible.... The goodness of God is for him never exhausted. The best is still to be.”*

New Bible Dictionary, p. 489

Matthew 24:30-31

30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mark 13:26-27

26 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Luke 21:27-28

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.

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Hebrews 9:27-28

27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

James 1:12

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

1 Peter 1:3-5

3 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, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 20-21

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Revelation 21:1-4

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."