

Hope Fulfilled is... JESUS!

As with all things in the Christian life...

JESUS is the answer! He is the fulfillment!
He is our **all in all!**

*“For now we see through a glass, darkly; **but then face to face**: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12)*

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**” (1 John 3:2)*

As we can see from the passages above, what we have now is great... but when our hope is fulfilled... it will be **beyond glorious!**

It will be **PERFECTION!**

We will see Jesus as He is and we will be like him. Of course this does not mean we will be God, as Jesus is, but we will be like Him because we will resemble Him.

Similar to looking in a mirror, the resemblance is nearly perfect. That is how it will be when we see Him. We will **not** be Him, but we will almost perfectly **resemble** Him.

Conclusion: What does Biblical HOPE Cause

*“And **every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself**, even as he is pure.”
(1 John 3:3)*

Holding onto the biblical hope of Jesus' return does a great many positive things for the Christian. It prevents us from becoming “heart sick” (by deferring our hope). It also offers us glorious joy and expectancy with regards to our eternal future.

As is evident in the verse above, **every person** who has the hope of seeing Jesus face to face, purifies themselves. Thus the hope of the Lord's return is a **motivation** for believers to become more like Him here and now.

The hope of Jesus inspires us to purity. The way to become Christ-like in this life is the way of the Cross... first the Cross of Christ... and then our personal cross that we are to take up daily.

DEATH TO SELF is the key to successfully allowing Christ to live in and through us, which is the only way to become more like Him!

*“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**” (Luke 9:23)*

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*“**Hope deferred** maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.” (Proverbs 13:12)*

Without Hope

It has been said that without food, people can live about 40 days. Without water, about 7 days. Without air, about 3 minutes. But without hope, you are essentially dead already.

The Bible is Full of Hope

What is biblical hope? First, biblical hope is **not** wishful thinking... it is **not** thoughts of “desperate desire”.

Hope as found in the Bible is a **confident expectation** based on faith in the one true God... the God of the Bible. Hope and faith are interwoven and when founded in Christ, they are unshakable!

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

HOPE AND THE BIBLE

Future and a Hope

*“For thus saith the Lord, That **after seventy years** be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. (11) For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **hope and a future.**” (Jeremiah 29:10-11)*

God’s plans for His people are always perfect... even when we do not understand them.

Most people are familiar with Jeremiah 29:11. This verse is on promise calendars, note pads, billboards, social media... everywhere! But few are familiar with the verse before verse 11!

Truly God intends to give us prosperity... to give us a future and a hope. There is no doubt about that. In Christ Jesus we are already heirs of eternity with God.

Verse 10 shows us that God’s plans are more than worth it... even if it takes **70 years** of enemy captivity before we receive God’s promises.

Interestingly, seventy years is what God’s Word says is the average life of a man.

“As for the days of our life, they contain sev-

enty years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away.”
(Psalm 90:10)

Looking For the HOPE

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” (Titus 2:13)

The greatest hope for Christians is to look **for** the return of Jesus! Notice that this passage does **not** tell us to look **forward to** but rather to look **for** Jesus’ return.

The phrase “**looking for**” in the Greek has the connotation of **expectancy**. By definition this word includes a deep level of intimacy. “Looking for” is not only inclusive of anticipation, but specifically **anticipated** intimacy... intimacy with Jesus.

One definition of this “**looking for**” includes: *“receive one into intercourse and companionship”*.

The excitement for a believer in Jesus is the culmination of that which we already possess... seeing Jesus face-to-face!

Hope Deferred

*“**Hope deferred** maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.”*
(Proverbs 13:12)

Heart sickness is one result of deferring our hope. Sadly, many Christians do **not** look for Jesus and His return. Many simply live day-by-day... they live for themselves... worrying about tomorrow and almost never thinking about the return of the Lord.

*“**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (34) Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**”*
(Matthew 6:33-34)

Our focus as followers of Jesus, should be on His return... and on Who He is... His faithfulness and goodness. We should not overly concern ourselves with providing for our needs for today, tomorrow, and the future.

God is good and He will take care of His children... no matter the circumstance. His ultimate and eternal provision will be that glorious day when Jesus comes back!

Let us **not** be people that are ambivalent to the second coming of Jesus. Let us be people who are **not** deferring that hope.

Let us be a people that **look for** that wonderful event... that day when Jesus comes back!
