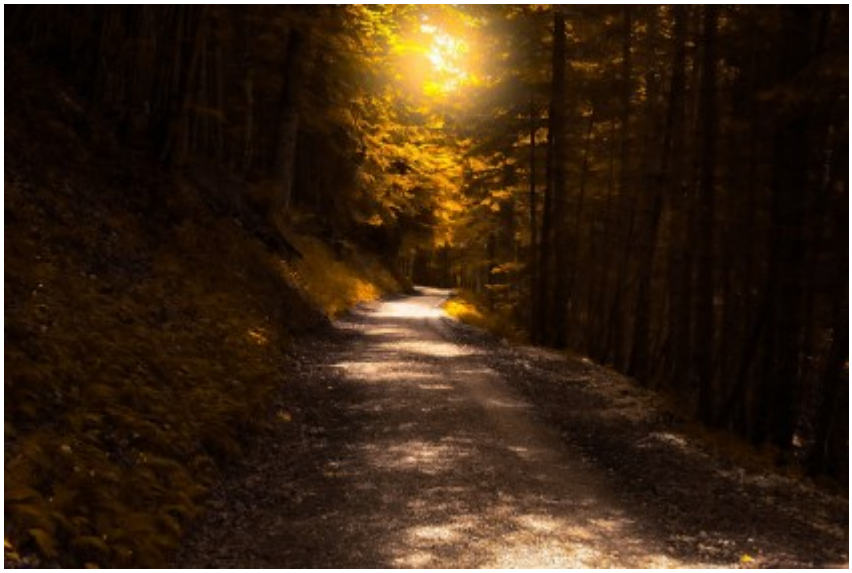
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There's Hope for the World



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #270 ~

I was encouraged by a recent study in the Psalms that showed God working in the lives of Jewish believers. We learn that they had hope, they believed the Messiah was coming to rule and reign on this earth – and having this hope helped them live a godly life. God is now working in the lives of Christians, and we too are to have hope, to be looking forward to Jesus Christ, the Messiah, coming back to rapture the church and establish His kingdom on earth.

Let me look at these Psalms as it relates to hope:
Psalms 1-2 – There's the juxtaposition of God working with individuals (Ps. 1) and God working with nations (Ps. 2). He blesses the righteous and punishes the unrighteous, both individuals and the entire world. And God gives us hope – *"As for Me, I have installed My King on Zion, My holy mountain"* (Ps. 2:6-8). In the near future, we will see the realization of our hope, for Jesus Christ will return to judge the wicked,

and then reign over this world for 1,000 glorious years.

Psalm 9 – This is all about a rejoicing Psalmist and wicked nations. The Psalmist is thankful that God justly dealt with his own enemies, but he is also hopeful, for he knows that God will judge the nations, and then punish them by casting them into Sheol. *"You have sat on the throne judging righteously… You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked… You have blotted out their name forever and ever."* Psalm 9:1-6

Psalm 11 – David is being chased by the wicked, and so he takes refuge in the Lord, knowing he will be delivered by Him. But he also has hope and it's our hope too, that our holy God will rain fire, brimstone, and burning wind upon a world of sinners, and that He will forever bless us. *"The Lord is righteous, and He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face."* Psalm 11:7

Psalm 22 – Jesus Christ endured humiliation, great affliction, terrible pain, and then died on a cross. He knew that was the only way He could save millions and millions of sinners, and take back the world from Satan. So Jesus had hope. *"All the families of the nations will worship before You. The kingdom is the Lord's and He rules over the nations."* Psalm 22:27-28

Psalm 33 – The Psalmist sings praises and gives thanks to God because His word is right and His work is being done. It was God's work of creation, His work of watching over the world, His hope of God's work with Israel (Ps. 33:11-12), and His work in his life and the lives of other believers. *"The eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for your lovingkindness… our heart rejoices in Him because we trust in His holy name."* Psalm 33:18-22

Psalm 37 – David knew that believers were not to be afraid of the

enemy but were to trust in God and do good, for He would rescue them. They also needed to know that God will judge the wicked (Ps. 37:12-15) and bless the righteous, which is in the future – *"The humble will inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant prosperity"* (Ps 37:11). This is true for Christians too.

Psalm 46 – Whenever we have problems, whether big or small, we are not to be afraid but are to trust God and take refuge in Him. We can do this because God is loving, powerful, sovereign, and He is always with us. Soon enough, He will put an end to wars and earthquakes, and Christ will return to rapture the church, judge His enemies, and reign over the world – and this is our hope! *"Cease striving and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations."* Psalm 46:10

Psalm 67 – *"Let the peoples praise You, O God… God blesses us that all the ends of the earth may fear Him"* (Ps. 67:5-7). This promise is for both the Jewish people and the church. God blessed the Jews in the past and is blessing the church in the present, and our hope is that Christ will be ruling the world in the future, during the millennial kingdom. Then all believers, both Jews and Gentiles, will be supremely blessed, resulting in all the ends of the earth fearing and praising God.

Psalm 86 – David, a godly man, is being persecuted and he cries out to God, and experiences His grace, goodness, love, and comfort, for which he is very thankful. But David, seeing the future, has hope, knows better days are ahead. He says, "*All nations… shall come and worship before You, O Lord,"* which we now know takes place during the millennial kingdom. Psalm 86:9, Isaiah 2:1-4

Psalm 102 – A sad and severely afflicted Psalmist is praying to God. The answer is hope, for God enables the Psalmist to get his eyes off himself and on His plans for the future, when He has mercy on Israel, when the Lord appears and builds up Zion. This occurs during the kingdom age, when *"the peoples and kingdoms are gathered together*

to serve the Lord." Psalm 102:18-22

Psalm 105 – The characters in this chapter are involved in God's plan to fulfill His promise to Israel – *"He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'to you I will give the land of Canaan.'"* (Ps. 105:10-11). Like the Israelites of old, God has given you your own part and place in history, and He has given you hope. In the ages to come, you will share in God's promise to Israel. *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."* Matthew 5:3

Psalm 121 – The Psalmist is thinking about how God is keeping and protecting him. He's also thinking about God's greater purposes, His plans for Israel, and that God will keep and bless them in the future, which he knows includes himself. *"The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever"* (Ps. 121:8). This hope is for all believers. John 3:16, 1 Peter 1:3-5

Psalm 125 – God's goodness and protection is upon individual believers, those who trust in the Lord, but it's also upon Jerusalem, upon Mount Zion, *"which cannot be moved but abides forever*" (Ps. 125:1). The promises in this Psalm pertain to the city of God and the people of God and will be fulfilled in the kingdom age to come. *"The Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever"* Psalm 125:1-2

Psalm 131 – God was working in the life of a believer and in the nation of Israel. Just as a believer is to be humble and trust in the Lord, so too, the nation of Israel is to trust, is to hope in the Lord. *"O Israel, hope in the Lord, from this time forth and forever"* (Ps. 121:3). Hebrews 11:39-40 makes it clear that this hope for the future is for both Jewish believers and the church.

Psalm 138 – King David is thankful for God's love, truth, and strength.

But he knows life is not just about him, for the time will come when *"all the kings of the earth will give thanks to You, O Lord* (Psalm 138:4). God works in the lives of the lowly and the kings, and His purpose, and our hope is for all people to glorify Him forever. *"Your lovingkindness is everlasting."* Psalm 138:8

Psalm 145 – David is committed to praising his gracious and loving Lord forever, but he also knows that all believers will be blessing His name forever. This is the kingdom work of God and is our hope and our future. *"I will praise Your name forever and ever"* (Ps. 145:2). *"Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom"* (Ps. 145:13). *"All flesh will bless His name forever."* Psalm 145:21

Here are some take-aways from these Psalms:
* These Psalms talk about God's work in individual lives, ones who were afflicted, persecuted, struggling, and fearful. But they cried out to God, trusted God, rejoiced, and were thankful. And we can all relate, for God is now at work in our lives, helping us to live wholeheartedly for Him.

* The people in these Psalms lived for God and had hope, and their hope helped them to live for Him. We too need hope if we are to live rightly and strongly for God – we need to look forward to Christ's return to rapture the church, judge His enemies, and set up His kingdom on earth.

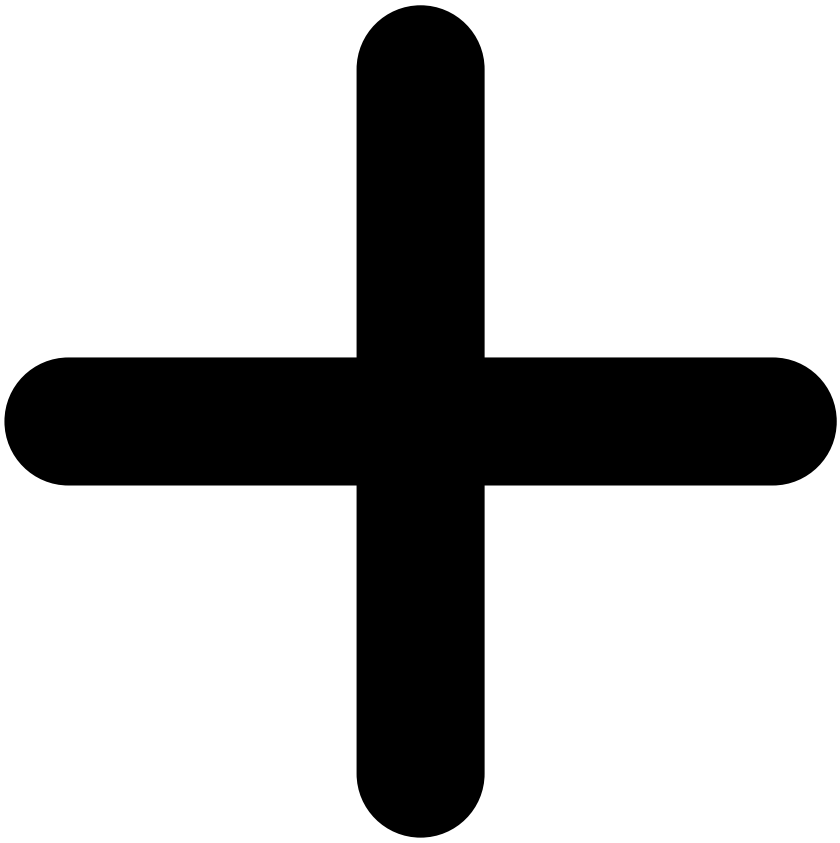
* God's work in these believers was related to His work in the world at large. The same is true for you – like a puzzle piece, you are an important part of the big picture. God's present-day work in you is part of His comprehensive plan to bring about Christ's return. Be glad that you are part of God's plan to send Christ to rapture the church and then reign over the world.

* We looked at all these Psalms that talked about hope, but you need to

realize that there are many more passages, hundreds of verses in the Old and New Testaments that describe our hope, that clearly tell us our future.

* While the believers in these Psalms lived over 2500 years ago and had hope, we live in the end-times and we also have hope, knowing that it won't be that long – 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 years??!! – before our hopes are realized, before we see Jesus Christ coming back to take us to Himself and to heaven.

So how should you live? Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mark 12:30). Have faith in God (Luke 18:8). Pray for the coming of Christ and His kingdom (Matt. 6:10). Seek first the kingdom of God. (Matt. 6:33). Be involved in a church that is making disciples (Matt. 28:19-20). Be filled with hope. *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Spirit."* Romans 15:13



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