



“Advent 2021”
Wk. 1 HOPE
By Pastor Jody May 12/05/2021

Titus 2:11-14 ESV

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed **HOPE**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Hope – Biblical hope / Christmas hope is the confidence that good things are still to come anchored in past events.

[CONNECT/INTRO]

Worldly HOPE it never satisfies it only leaves you wanting more... (The Dan Marino tragedy 83-2000, 17 years, pro bowl 7 times, one super bowl appearance in 85 against Joe Montana). **Hope** from the **world cannot strengthen** you, to love as you get older, but a Biblical Hope, a Christmas Hope, will help you not only endure but will **make you stronger as you age**, because it knows something is better coming! (Like Obi Wan Kenobi, if you strike me down, I will become more powerful than you can possibly imagine)

How does God manufacture Hope for His people during this time of year?

1. We look back to the GRACE that appeared (11-12).

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Now to understand **grace** a little better let me offer to you the idea of Grace from our sermon three weeks ago on *Sola Gratia* by Grace Alone from the 5 Solas:



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“Grace is the unmerited goodness or love of God to those who have forfeited it, and are by nature under a sentence of condemnation.” – Louis Berkhoff (1873-1957)

Grace – getting what you don’t deserve...

So, the biblical concept of Grace is that it is a condition/state of being blessed by God by which one did not earn. Now let’s bring that into today’s passage: *For the **grace** of God has **appeared**, bringing salvation for all people (11).*

In order to help us understand that something BIG was happening 2k years ago, that there was going to be the true hub of the *Wheel of Time* built, and all of human history will revolve around one moment, God was going to take “Grace the Concept” and make it more concrete, He was going to once and for all deliver Grace in a bold and unforgettable way.

Just so you know God had gone far and above to make mankind, His image bearers, understand that even though they were fallen, that He was going to keep on loving them, and that this LOVE was all based on Grace, being loved unconditionally by Him.

[TWO SIGNS OF GRACE]

Building a biblical and Christmas Hope one can look back through the pages of the OT and find **visible signs** that God was going to do something about our condition (**GRACE**), that is our state of Original Sin, being destined to die. **1ST SIGNS** - We call those signs **covenants**, or ‘unbreakable promises’ by which God swears on Himself and who He is, to help us out of our jam, our depravity, no matter how bad we get.

- **Adamic Covenant** -Proto-Euangelion – **Genesis 3:15 ESV**
*¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”*
- **Noahic Covenant** (Gen. 9) never destroy the earth by water again.



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- **Abrahamic Covenant** ([Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7](#); [13:14-17](#); [15](#); [17:1-14](#); [22:15-18](#)) Abraham would have numerous descendants and they would have a land to dwell in and all the world will be blessed by a descendant (the Messiah)
- **Mosaic Covenant** ([Deuteronomy 11](#); et al. & [Exodus 20](#)). Promises for blessing upon their obedience and curses if not.
- **Davidic Covenant** ([2 Samuel 7:8-16](#)) That David’s lineage would last forever.
- **New Covenant** ([Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)) which expands grace to gentiles and is lived out by faith, not by works.

All these covenants were **SIGNS of GRACE**, being loved unconditionally by God, but we are stubborn, the Bible calls it being stiff-necked. **2ND SIGN** We need more than signs, so God also gives **shadows/clues/allusions** about GRACE and that it may be more than just a state of being. These allusions come in the forms of offices.

- He gives **PRIESTS** in the OT, those that mediate between God and man, to help people deal with sin and guilt by remaining holy, receiving sacrifices/confession to help the people make restitution for sin.
- He gives **KINGS** to give/keep the law and lead the people in righteous living. He speaks for the people as a representative to other nations, he is to be the living embodiment of a true believer in God.
- He gives **PROPHETS** who give the law, call for repentance, and are the mouthpieces for God, they are the keepers of the covenants. God even gives a hint through the first and greatest of the OT prophets that GRACE would become more than just a concept or state:

Deuteronomy 18:15 ESV

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.

Then God goes one more step further and through a prophet tells of a sign that GRACE APPEARING is going to be more than a state/concept. In fact, it will be such a HUGE event God will provide a miracle, something that is impossible to happen in the physical world!

Isaiah 7:14 ESV



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Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Then after all the signs and all the foreshadowing’s of Grace it goes dark, no word from God for 400 years. In that time there is war, and Jerusalem is batted back and forth like a ping pong ball between three different empires. The Jews erect a religion **devoid of grace** called Judaism, where it’s all about how good you are. If you were blessed and not harassed by the rulers and authorities of this world then it proved you still had favor with God. All the while the elect, those that believed in God for Salvation not their works, grew smaller and smaller. Then in the midst of vast darkness God sends some news, via a messenger, that becomes the spark on dry kindling.

Luke 1:34-38 ESV

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Grace would no longer just be a concept, but Grace would be incarnated in the Flesh, through a virgin, through the line of David, as a prophet like Moses, and become the Son of Man, Jesus of Nazareth, and now we would receive through the New Adam, Grace upon Grace!

And what did this embodiment of GRACE do?

¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, (v12)

- As a priest Jesus stands before the throne of God and gives the sacrifice of Himself as a once and for all sin offering, removing Sin AND Shame!



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- As a Prophet Jesus teaches us about the New Covenant, how by the Spirit of God we will believe by faith to be saved, no more covenant laws or curses.
- As a King He lived and lives as an example for His people, showing us how to live with affection and pride in our God.

And all of that produces in you, **godly lives**, for this day right now!

It makes you and I live a different life because when we see and believe that Jesus is the Incarnate form of GRACE itself, it puts in our souls out of joy the desire to live under that Grace! To know that Grace was given to you, when you did not deserve it, to see and believe that Jesus has chosen to love you, you cannot but help but love Him!

This is now become **HOPE**. WE have anchored our hearts, we have put down roots in Biblical History, we have bet the house and we are all in on the fact that Jesus came 2,000 years ago. He accomplished redemption as the Suffering Servant ending in the cross and was glorified in resurrection and now sits at the right hand of God. All of us, to call yourself Christian, must believe and accept those events, and it MUST change you so that your life looks different in this world. When that happens HOPE now becomes a Power to move you through even the most difficult of times. It does this by now looking forward. If we believe by faith in what has already happened, then we need to believe by faith in what we are told will occur.

2. We look forward to the **GLORY** that will come (13-14a).

¹³ **waiting** for our blessed **hope**, the **appearing** of the **glory** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people

Now this opens up the concept of hope a lot more, this verse begins to breathe more understanding. So, we are looking back anchored in what we know is true – pt. 1, and now we are in this state that no one likes – **WAITING** (13).

Some of you are so impatient you haven't waited in line since they came out with self-checkout! Isn't that all of us? When is the last time any of us have waited in



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line at the bank or a store. You know growing up when you took your car in to be serviced you sat with it (as a kid it seemed eternity). Now a days if it takes longer than three hours we are like, “give me a rental I will be back tomorrow!” That is our cultural, **waiting**, is now considered a sin, BUT in the **Bible** it is a **tool** to help you learn how to **persevere**...

The Bible says we wait, **FOR** our blessed **hope** = which is the appearing of the glory (δόξα (*doxa*). n. fem. **glory, splendor, honor**. *Refers to the honor which is accorded to, or the splendor which characterizes, a person or thing.*¹) of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. That’s not two separate people by the way, Jesus is our God and King... **We are waiting for the 2nd coming, the 2nd Advent**, of Jesus which will this time happen with all the fanfare and all the glory that it deserves!

The first time He comes is quiet, through a day-laborer’s home, Joe the carpenter and his little wife Mary. He came while they were on a business trip to register pay taxes to their federal government. That was their form of getting a Vacs card so they could work. While on this trip being holiday season, they were kicked out to the stable where Mary gave birth in an unsanitary environment with only her husband for help. The angels did sing but they had sing downwind of Jerusalem, so they found some shepherds to tell them about Grace that God sent them. Shepherds you should know were considered the lowest of deplorables in society, they couldn’t get a normal job all they could do was watch sheep. It means they could never make it to church because of their job so they were always considered sinners, unclean. Well, there you have it, the humblest of entrances into this world provided for the greatest of all beings in the universe.

Mark you, it will not be that way next time! Put your hope in this family, as we have put our hope in how it happened the first time. Believe in God’s Word now, have confidence in it, and know that all will see and have their **minds blown!**

Revelation 21:2-5 ESV

²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the

¹ Fenlason, A. C. (2014). [Beauty](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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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.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

New Jerusalem is coming down, it’s a city already inhabited with those that Jesus redeemed (14). So, all the past elect return to the earth accompanied by God’s voice declaring what we all want – **Immanuel God is WITH us....** We are not separated by space and time any longer, but we are living with Him in the flesh! GRACE, getting what we don’t deserve, an eternal life with Jesus that is doing away with all the old and bringing in the new!

This second coming has **everything in it!** The setting up of new culture, new relationships, and the punishment and the casting out of those that don’t want Him. It is a time of judgment, revelry, and cheering on as Jesus shatters all the kingdoms of this world. **EVERYONE sees this ADVENT – it is GLORIOUS!** This is true biblical hope! We look back and wait because we have confidence that the return not only WILL happen, but it will BE BETTER than the first! And when you and I have that Hope pumping in your veins every day of the year, there aint nothing the world can throw at you that you can’t get over!

That’s what HOPE brings to you this Christmas. **It changes you, Hope drives you to be different, it gives you a reason to celebrate another year, not dread it!** Because it is only through HOPE that we can really experience Christmas rightly and here’s why.

3. We receive by faith the GIFT that Christmas gives (14b).

¹⁴ who (Jesus) gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people.



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Hope, anchoring in the past to have a confidence in our future, rescues us, belief in this glorious Jesus, saves us and makes us the ‘New Thing’ He talked about in Revelation. It says by this second Advent, living with Jesus, all the things we have endured, all the time that passed as countless generations waited, as the true church was persecuted, as Jesus’ name was defamed, it happened because Jesus was making for Himself a people! **The gift that Hope, delivers to us is that I will get to say, you will get to say to me, I belong to the people of God!**

It means in that future place everywhere you look, every time you turn around, you will always find someone like you. That lives for God like you do, believes like you do, loves Jesus like you do, appreciates His good blessings like you do, can’t stop talking about God like you do, can’t stop smiling like you do, all because Jesus made a bunch of ‘yous’ so we all can be called family! There is nothing in this Universe that compares to this group of people, and you are a part of it!

That’s why Highlands is becoming a little piece of Heaven on earth because we have found a place where we all can wait together in HOPE looking forward to that glorious day!

Christmas is about receiving by faith the gift of grace that delivers HOPE in that our best day is still yet to come!

[CHALLENGE]

Today, maybe you have had a hard time this year because you have anchored your hope in what Dr. Fauci tells you. Perhaps we need to tear down that idol and today let’s celebrate not based on the hope in the CDC, the Treasury, the State Dept., the DOJ, Governor or any politicians can bring you but anchor your hope in the first humble Advent of Jesus our God and King and please put a smile on your face today!

Today, maybe you can only see from paycheck to paycheck, from one booster shot to the next, and everyday looks the same, so that your attitude is slowly becoming, “eat drink and be merry for tomorrow is going to be the same”. Today you need to turn from that junk and put your hope CONFIDENTLY in the second



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Advent of Christ for He is coming, He will end all pain and sickness, He will make all things new! Alleviation to all your woes and pain is not supposed to happen now they are to **heighten the exaltation to the glory you will be receiving** when He returns. Will you today commit to understanding that **WAITING is a part of the process** to make you persevere and sweeten the taste of Salvation in your soul?

Lastly, if you have never known what it is like to be a part of a people where they all know Jesus and love Him and wait on Him then I invite you into this party now. Right now, I call on you to accept the GIFT of Christmas, that Jesus wants to make you, HIS PEOPLE! Accept it, accept you are a sinner and accept He wants to take that and remove it from you to purify you to be with this family! Join us here at HCC and watch at what Lord is going to do through this group of like-minded people, it shall be glorious!

Hope – Biblical hope / Christmas hope is the confidence that good things are still to come anchored in past events.

Remember family, this ADVENT season, it all starts with HOPE, the confidence that good things, the BEST things are still to come and we remember that by anchoring ourselves in the reality of the first Advent Christmas.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that sent us His only Begotten Son the first Advent to be the Incarnation of GRACE.

Go in the name of the Son, that has redeemed us to make for Himself a people.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that grants us faith and gives us a HOPE that the best is still to come, now go and share this good news!