

Job 8:13-14 So [like a plant without water] *are the paths of all that forget God; and **the hypocrite's hope shall perish**: ¹⁴Whose [the people who forget God and the hypocrite] *hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web*¹.*

Hebrews 6:18-19 *That by two immutable things [God's power and a promise He made], in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation [we might be greatly encouraged], who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us [who have found a safe hiding place in the hope God promised us]: ¹⁹**Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil**²;*

1. Introduction

- a. America right now feels like a nation without hope
- b. What do we know about Biblical hope?
 - i. Optimism is not hope. Optimism is view of looking at future good circumstances
 - ii. Biblical hope is looking for a change both inside and outside of us, preparing us for a world which will not decay nor see death. See 1 Peter 1:4
- c. Background: Bildad the Shuhite is speaking to Job. In Job 8:13-14 he is accusing Job of forgetting God and being a hypocrite. Job knows this is not true, but Bildad does not.
- d. Hope is given by God Himself

1 Corinthians 13:13 *And now abideth [And these will last forever] **faith, hope, charity** [unselfish love], **these three; but the greatest of these is charity**.*

Hebrews 11:1 *Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for** [faith is knowing exactly what you're hoping for], **the evidence of things not seen** [being sure of what God has prepared for you even though you won't ever see it in this life].*

¹ "...the hypocrite's...trust shall be a spider's web." A spider's web is something you probably won't see before you become trapped in it and unable to escape. Like the bug who is not watching in front of him and gets stuck to the sticky threads of the spider, the hypocrite will be stuck in the fate of those who forget God, who are not thankful for all the provisions for this life, nor do they consider their own ultimate future.

² "...which entereth into that within the veil..." This phrase refers to the presence of God found behind the veil (or curtain) of the Temple. The ark of the covenant (an unbreakable promise made by God), which was covered by the mercy seat, was 'within the veil'. This place could only be accessed once a year, on the Passover, by Israel's High Priest. The High Priest would bring blood from the yearly Passover sacrifice and sprinkle it on the mercy seat as a covering for the sins of the nation Israel. The symbology is clearly referring to the hope provided us because of the blood of Jesus covering the sins of anyone willing to trust Him ("...who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us ...").

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is [that He is real and able to fulfill His promises], and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

e. Christian hope is belief in a secure future

2. Three Types of Hope

a. First type of hope – wishful hope

- i. Wishing things were different
- ii. Wishful thinking
- iii. Desire for things to be different

b. Second type of hope – expected hope

- i. Expected result based on plans
- ii. No guarantees that plan will work
- iii. Humans cannot control all the results of their future plans

c. Third type of hope – certain hope

- i. Absolute, true, expected hope
- ii. Based on God's promise
- iii. There are over 7000 promises in Bible
- iv. Based on the record of God fulfilling His promises in the past

3. Based on God's Character

a. Impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 11:18) – the God of truth

Exodus 34:6 *And the LORD passed by before him [Moses], and proclaimed, "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and **abundant in goodness and truth,**"*

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He [God] is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: **A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.***

b. None greater than God

Hebrews 6:13 *For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,*

4. God-given Hope is an Anchor for the Christian Soul

a. God wants to give you hope

b. Purpose of anchor

- i. Anchor ties ship to sea bottom, preventing drifting
- ii. Dropping an anchor in a storm turns the ship to head into the storm, giving an amount of control to the ship operator (captain)

5. Questions During Difficult Times

- a. What promises are you holding to?
- i. Warning of tribulations & trials
2 Timothy 3:12 *Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.***
 - ii. Christians have an anchor for their soul
2 Timothy 1:12 *For the which cause [because I, Paul, am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles] **I also suffer these things** [I suffering for preaching the gospel]: **nevertheless, I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed** [Jesus Christ], **and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him** [my soul] **against that day.***
- b. Have you given thanks to God?
- i. Thanksgiving to God for everything
1 Thessalonian 5:18 *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
 - ii. Thanks especially that we have peace with God
Romans 5:1-2 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, **and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***
 - iii. Our thanksgiving will increase as we learn of God's promise of spiritual growth through patience, experience, & hope
Romans 5:3-5 *And not only so [And not only do we have peace with God], **but we glory in tribulations** [sufferings] **also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;** ⁴**And patience, experience;** **and experience, hope:** ⁵**And hope maketh not ashamed** [and we will not be ashamed because we continue to hope]; *because the love of God is shed abroad in [is poured into] our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

6. Conclusions

- a. My heart is glad (happy) because I know what I am hoping for
Psalm 16:9 *Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: **my flesh also shall rest in hope.***
- b. God shall strengthen your heart
Psalm 31:24 *Be of good courage, and **he** [God] **shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.***
- c. God is my trust from youth
Psalm 71:5 *For **thou art my hope, O Lord GOD** thou art my trust from my youth.*