

Bible Basics - Session Three: The Hope in the Old Testament

Review: The Word of God

A conversation with God
Multi-layered pictures of God
What does the Word “do” to us

Review: The Promises of God

Unconditional Promises to Abraham: land, people and a blessing
Conditional Promises: Circumcision, the Ten Commandments
The Promise to David
The Promise always comes before the Command
The Word of God as Law and Gospel

Hope: Having a Future

What do we hope for? Why is hope so important to us?

Hope in the context of the suffering and history of Israel

The Land – overrun by other nations: Assyrians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, and then the Romans
The People – divided by injustice, not very faithful, appear to be not so special
The Blessing – Sometimes Israel was more influenced by other cultures than by being a witness to the world.
The Kings – some good but most of them are bad
The Temple – destroyed and then rebuilt but never the same
There is this mood of continual disappointment. The History of Israel during this period from Babylonian Captivity to the coming of Christ is clouded with this doubt about the promise. The reality does not always meet the expectations of the promise. Therefore, there is this need to keep hope alive through faith in God.

Hope found in the Word of God

Isaiah 40: Return to Jerusalem and the Word that stands forever
42: Servant Song - God has chosen us; you are a light to the nations
 God is doing a new thing
43: 10: the servant is a witness
 18: new thing
44: 14: election in creation
49: 6: “Too light a thing...Blessing to the nations”
53: suffering servant, atonement,
55 :3: Davidic hope in this witness
 call new nations: blessing
 6-7: return to worship
 8-11: hope as faith; God’s ways are not ours
56:1: keep justice and righteousness to gather
 3: foreigner and eunuch even welcomed
 7: For all people, gather will gather the outcasts and others
61: servant song used in Luke 4 to describe the ministry of Jesus
Jeremiah 31: 31-34: more of an eternal sense of the faith

Ezekiel 36: 26-27: same idea

Ezekiel 37: dry bones revived

Malachi: return of Elijah to prepare the way

Historical Reality – Things do not go well – Separation of “Innies” and “Outies”

Ezra – Return from captivity and the rebuilding of the temple

Obsession with “roots”

Exclude the unclean

Reality does not meet expectation

Samaritans are denied permission to help build the temple

Exclude people who have married foreigners

Nehemiah – Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (wall mentality)

Jonah – God’s mercy is also for their enemies

The Word of God carries the Hope of the Future: It sets the stage for Jesus.

Session Four: Read the Gospel of John as we look at Word in the NT