

*Hope Found in Christmas*



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Love the Season – traditions

- lights, tree, gifts – symbols we celebrate
- holiday, celebration, family – time to pause

Recharging my Hope

‘to desire with expectation of achievement’

‘to expect with confidence’



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## 1. God Keeps His Promises

a) promised to send a Savior

- prophecies – How, Who, Where

Matthew 1:21...

- <sup>21</sup> “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
- <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

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- Isaiah 9:6-7 “For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”

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b) reminded He keeps his Word

- Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever”

- Romans 15:8 “For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,”

- 2 Cor. 1:20 “<sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”

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## 2. God Provides what we Cannot

- scripture really clear
- all fall short of God's standard – Rom. 3:23
- all deserving of his punishment – Rom 1:18-20
- the punishment is death – Rom. 6:23
- but God motivated by Love.....
- 1 Tim. 1:15 “<sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”

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- John 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him”
- Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

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- God provided that I might have peace....
  - With Him – Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - With Ourselves – Phil. 4:7 “<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
  - With Others – Rom 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”



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## 3. God's Kindness and Care

- story filled with moments of tender care
- choosing the humble, unlikely – his kindness

- Angels Visit to Mary – Luke 1
- Angels Visit to Joseph – Matt. 1
- Elizabeth's Response – Luke 1
- Shepherds Visit – Luke 2
- Simeon's Response – Luke 2
- Wise Men & Resources – Matt 2

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## So What?

1. God's Promises Stand
  - in spite of circumstance, time, cultures
  - he will do what he has promised
2. God is Taking Action
  - in the unlikely and humble places
  - is active in the events of our world
3. God see's and Cares for you today
  - willing to meet you in your circumstances