

Abounding in Hope!

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

Abounding in Hope!

Advent Series

Sunday December 2, 2018

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Galatians 4:4–5 ESV

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Romans 15:4 ESV

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13 ESV

Desperate Times Reveal a Determined Creator

"In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth." Luke 1:5 ESV

"When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;"

Matthew 2:3 ESV

"And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord." Luke 1:6 ESV

"I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing."

Psalms 37:25–26 ESV

"But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years."

Luke 1:7 ESV

“After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.””
Luke 1:24–25 ESV

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”
James 1:2–4 ESV

The Creator’s Timing is Always Perfect

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,”
Galatians 4:4 ESV

“Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.”
Luke 1:8–9 ESV

“And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.”
Luke 1:10–11 ESV

“And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”
Luke 1:12–13 ESV

““Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”
Matthew 7:7–11 ESV

**My refusal to pray is actually
my rejection of God power and blessing.**

The Creator’s Desires to Bless His People

1. Your Child Will Be a joy and delight to you

“And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,”
Luke 1:14 ESV

2. He will be great in the sight of the Lord.

“for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.”
Luke 1:15 ESV

3. He will choose to be Godly.

4. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.

5. He Will Bring Many People To God.

“And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,”
Luke 1:16 ESV

6. He will Prepare the way for the Jesus

“and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.””
Luke 1:17 ESV

How Would God Want Me to Response to His Word?

“And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.””
Luke 1:18 ESV

“And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.””
Luke 1:19–20 ESV

“Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”
Matthew 11:11 ESV