



HOPE FORETOLD

Various Passages | Pastor Mohan Zachariah

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Big Idea: Hope was born long before Bethlehem. God planted hope in His people through promises, prophecies, and patterns of redemption—now fulfilled in Christ.

1. Hope from Sin's Defeat (Genesis 3)

Even in humanity's darkest moment—when Adam and Eve fell—God spoke hope. The first prophecy in Scripture promised that One would come to crush the serpent's head. Hope was foretold at the very moment sin entered the world.

Application Questions:

1. Where do you feel like Adam and Eve—believing you've ruined everything? How does Genesis 3:15 speak hope into that place?
2. Do you tend to focus more on the consequences of your sin or the hope God speaks before the consequences?
3. What "serpent lies" have convinced you that your failure is final?

2. Hope in the Lamb God Promised (Genesis 22)

On the mountain with Isaac, Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb." This was hope foretold—pointing forward to a Substitute who would die in our place.

Application Questions:

1. What does the story of Abraham and Isaac reveal about trusting God when you can't see His provision yet?
2. Where is God calling you to walk up the mountain in obedience even though you don't see a "ram in the thicket"?
3. Have you genuinely trusted Jesus—the Lamb God provided—for your salvation?

3. Hope in the Suffering Savior (Psalm 22)

Long before the cross, Psalm 22 painted a vivid, painful picture of Christ's suffering. The Old Testament saints saw it dimly; we see it clearly. Hope was woven into the suffering of Jesus.

Application Questions:

1. How does knowing Jesus experienced forsakenness, wounds, and mockery reshape the way you view your own suffering?
2. Are you tempted to believe that your pain means God has abandoned you? How does Psalm 22 correct that belief?
3. Where do you need to remember that the cross is not the end of your story?



4. Hope in God With Us (Isaiah 7:14)

The virgin-born Son would be called Immanuel—God with us. The hope of the prophets was that God Himself would enter our world and never leave us alone again.

Application Questions:

1. Where do you most need to remember that God is with you right now?
2. How would your fear, anxiety, or discouragement change if you truly believed you were never alone?
3. What does “God with us” practically look like in your daily rhythms?

5. Hope in the Coming King (Isaiah 9)

A child would be born—a King whose government and peace would never end. He would be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Light for those walking in darkness.

Application Questions:

1. What area of your life still feels like “a land of deep darkness”? How does Isaiah’s prophecy speak hope there?
2. Which name of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 do you need most today—Counselor, Mighty God, Father, or Prince of Peace?
3. Where does Jesus need to reign so that darkness retreats?

6. Hope to Hold Onto (Hebrews 10:23)

Because “He who promised is faithful,” we hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering. The world shakes, traditions shift, expectations disappoint—but our hope is anchored in the unchanging faithfulness of God.

Application Questions:

1. Where are you most tempted to “waver” in your hope right now?
2. What are you holding onto instead of holding fast to Jesus—nostalgia, expectations, pain, control?
3. How can you help someone else “hold fast” this Christmas season?