

Jeremiah 17:12-18

A glorious high throne from the beginning Is the place of our sanctuary. O LORD, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You shall be ashamed. "Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth, Because they have forsaken the LORD, The fountain of living waters." Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, For You are my praise. Indeed they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come now!" As for me, I have not hurried away from being a shepherd who follows You, Nor have I desired the woeful day; You know what came out of my lips; It was right there before You. Do not be a terror to me; You are my hope in the day of doom. Let them be ashamed who persecute me, But do not let me be put to shame; Let them be dismayed, But do not let me be dismayed. Bring on them the day of doom, And destroy them with double destruction!

Hope Towers above all

Hope for many is nothing more than wishful thinking that will never be realized. Benjamin Franklin said, "He that lives upon hope will die fasting." Omar Khayyam said, "It is like snow in the desert." It has also been said that "hope is a quivering, nervous creature trying to be bright and cheerful but, alas, frequently sick with nervous prostration and heart failure. On the other hand, the Bible speaks of hope as an anchor: "God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." (Hebrews 6:16-19).

Unlike wishful thinking, Biblical hope is founded upon the promises of Almighty God who sent His Son to provide reconciliation for man through faith in the Son's sacrifice for sin. Biblical hope therefore is viewed as Jesus Himself, God's Son raised from the dead and sitting at the right hand of the Father. As a living anchor who is God himself, He is sure (unbreakable) and steadfast (unmovable) because He is our risen, eternal High Priest. . Raymond MacKendree explains: "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our hope today. It is our assurance that we have a living Saviour to help us live as we should now, and that when, in the end, we set forth on that last great journey, we shall not travel an uncharted course, but rather we shall go on a planned voyage-life to death to eternal living."

In northern Scotland there is a mountain called Ben Hope. In the Gaelic language of Scotland "Ben" means "a mountain peak. Certainly, hope towers above all the other intangibles of life. We can live without love. We can live without faith. We can live without friends. But we cannot live without hope. Clare Booth wrote, "There are no hopeless situations; there are only men who have grown hopeless about them." In a world where hopelessness breeds in every political theatre, abounds on every street corner, and breaks the spirit of man in most homes, Christ offers a true and lasting hope.

And how, you might ask, is this hope gained? God has made His Hope simple enough for a child to find: "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live [have everlasting life]. (John 11:25). "Hope is the "inseparable companion" of faith. ... Without faith's knowledge of Christ, hope becomes a utopia and remains hanging in the air. But without hope, faith falls to pieces, becomes a faint-hearted and ultimately a dead faith. It is through faith that man finds the path of true life, but it is only hope that keeps him on that path. (Jurgen Moltmann). And that hope is Christ.

What is my response:
