

“Healing Hope”

Joel 2:12a-b

July 5, 2020

INTRO: Ask **3** of the most **eternally important** questions:

- Is there a heaven?
- Who gets to go... & how do they get there?
- Proverbs 29:18... “prophetic vision... or perish”
 - *Coulda, woulda, shoulda are death-traps!*

- JDP

CONTEXT:

1. **Series** (patterns of & pointers to hope)

Hope is one of the Bible’s greatest patterns. - JDP

2. **Sermons** (previous hope)

3. **Scripture** (today’s hope is **HEALING Hope!**)

- i. Joel’s pattern: *Realize, Remember, Respond*
- ii. **BE ready!** “the Day of the LORD is NEAR!”

BIG IDEA:

HEALING Hope IS The GOSPEL in action!

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Whereas Holy Hope is open-heart surgery...

Healing Hope is a holy, heart-transforming transplant! - JDP

(cf. Ezekiel 36:26)

TEXT:

Joel 2:12a-b

*“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,*

I. History of hope

Horrific hope - Fall of man... *“Did God really say”*

Human hope - *You will be like God...* (cf. Babel)

Human hope is an oxymoron... - JDP

*“If we are to gaze into the face of God, we must look
beyond our present circumstances.”* - AW Tozer

Man’s hope is an empty treasure chest. - JDP

*Human hope is nothing more than a worldly
wish with a dress on (it’s like putting lipstick on
a pig... in the end, it’s still pig).* - JDP

Hurting hope ... see the 5 Warnings of Hebrews
(cf. Proverbs 13:12)

Holy hope ... God’s unchanging design/desire

Healing hope ...our message for today...

NOTE: Healing hope begins with biblical hopelessness. - JDP

Faith gives birth to hope & hope nurtures faith

Holy hope is **IN** the Creator, NOT the created!
Holy hope is **FOR** the Creator... and NOT for the created...

HOPE per Webster's 1828 dictionary:
hope always gives pleasure or joy; whereas wish and desire may produce **pain** and **anxiety**.

WHAT HOPE IS NOT:

- Hope without **God** is an idol.
- Hope without **grace** is an impossibility.
- Hope without **faith** is a superstition.
- Hope without **truth** is a lie.
- Hope without **love** is a selfish drug.
- Hope without **koinonia** is a sad secret.
- Hope without **mission** is a distraction.
- Hope without **repentance** is a waste.
- Hope without **praise for God** is a cracked mirror.
- Hope without **worship** is a stolen gift.
- Hope without **joy** is an oxymoron.
- Hope without **sharing** is spiritual gluttony.

VIDEO: *"Where Are The Christians"*

II. HOLY Hope

“Yet, even now...”

(Realize, Remember, Respond)

BIG IDEA: Biblical hope **CANNOT** be stopped!

Holy hope is greater than every “even-if.” - JDP

*When your right now... is worse than your ‘even-if,’...
even then... especially then... what you NEED
is Holy, Healing HOPE!* - JDP

“overwhelming over-comer” (Romans 8:37)

I will build My church & the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt 16:18)

Remember holy hope lies at the center of the biblical gospel

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

**Hope is a force-multiplying, offensive weapon
in spiritual warfare!** - JDP

*See how hope holds on to faith while reaching
out in/to/for love...*

Holy hope is the fruit of faithful obedience. - JDP

**Hope is a force-multiplying, offensive weapon
in spiritual warfare!** - JDP

Romans 8:28

*God is working all things together for the good of those who
love Him and are called according to His purposes.*

Holy Hope's Healing & Helping Applications:

A **fear of God** is hope's **foundation**.

A **love for God** is hope's **focus**.

The **grace of God** is hope's **glue**.

The **glory of God** is hope's **bullseye**.

The **Gospel of God** is hope's **good news**.

Christmas is hope's **birthday**.

The **cross** is hope's **birth-place**.

Great Friday is hope's **victory**.

Resurrection Sunday is hope's **validation**.

Each Christian is hope's **ambassador**.

The **collective Church** is hope's **army**.
 Baptism is hope's **aroma**.
 Discipleship is hope's **muscle**.
 Courage is hope's **backbone**.
 Love is hope's **language**.
 The Bible is hope's **blueprint**.
 Faith is hope's **confidence**.
 Faithfulness is hope's **contrast**.
 Obedience is hope's **narrow way**.
 The "few" are hope's **companions**.
 Ministry is hope's **touch**.
 Sacrifice is hope's **cost**.
 Evangelism is hope's **light**.
 A biblical worldview is hope's **design**.
The **sovereign work of God** is hope's **plan**.
The **Holy Spirit** is hope's **Empowerer**.
 Koinonia is hope's **people**.
 The **Great C's** are hope's **purposes**.
 Homothoomadon is hope's **passion!**
 Your testimony is hope's **keyhole**.
 Repentance is hope's **doorman**.
 Proclaiming is hope's **voice**.
 Preaching is hope's **teacher**.
 A **biblical witness** is hope's **sign-language**.
Secret acts of kindness serve as hope's **brail...**

Service is hope's sweat.
Selflessness is hope's beautiful paradox.
Forgiving others is hope's eraser.
Authenticity is hope's credibility.
Reality is hope's reminder.
Transparency is hope's clearest translator.
Goodness is hope's personality.
Righteousness is hope's character.
Kindness is hope's reputation.
Gentleness is hope's demeanor.
Self-control is hope's restraint.
Shrewdness is hope's wisdom.
Sacrifice is hope's currency.
Patience is hope's time-keeper.
Joy is hope's smile.
Peace is hope's pleasure.
Prayer is hope's heart-phone.
Missional living is hope's megaphone.

Romans 15:13

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

Hope Happens Here!

T/S: *Only HOLY hope heals... Holy ONLY!* -JDP

NOTE: My new friend Glenn... to paraphrase him:

*“Healing Hope is where & when
Holy Hope’s... rubber really hits the road... to heaven.”*

Holy hope both helps & heals! -JDP

Holy Hope describes what Healing Hope delivers.
-JDP

III. HEALING Hope

*Think of Holy Hope as the gospel’s living caterpillar
and
Healing Hope as The Gospel’s soaring butterfly.* -JDP

*Holy Hope gives **SIGHT** to the caterpillar, whereas
Healing Hope gives **FLIGHT** to the butterfly!* -JDP

**Healing Hope is God’s hope
&
The Gospel’s hope!** -JDP

*“Yet, even now, declares the LORD,”
“return to me with all your heart,*

1. Healing Hope is Holy hope

2. Healing Hope is HIS hope... (*God's hope*)

- *“Declares”*
- *“the LORD”*

3. Healing Hope IS The Gospel in action...

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| i. Grace | m |
| ii. Repentance | m |
| iii. Faith | M |
| iv. Obedience | m |
| v. Glory | m |

A. Grace

a. **Called**

Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen.

b. **Commanded** *“return to Me...”* cf. John 6:44

c. **Chosen**

2 Corinthians 4:4

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers,
so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays
the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

B. Repentance

a. *Realize.... the "Roman Road"*

b. *Remember*

1 Corinthians 2:14

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

c. *Respond*

i. *Remorse*

ii. *Repent*

Mark 1:15

*"The time has come," He/Jesus said. "The kingdom of God has come near. **Repent and believe** the good news!"*

iii. *Return*

Joel 2:12-13

Matthew 11:28

***Come to Me**, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*

C. Faith

In the same way that you cannot get to biblical restoration without biblical repentance, so it is that you cannot get to healing-hope without healing-faith. - JDP

(cf. Hebrews 11:6)

a. Holy ONLY

i. Realize

1. miracle
2. Messiah
3. mission

ii. Remember

1. BC (Before Christ)
2. @ (@ the cross)
3. AD (After Death to self)

iii. Respond

1. Remorse
2. Repent
3. Return

b. Home-based

*Whereas Holy Hope comes from the home of heaven,
Healing Hope comes back home to heave. - JDP*

c. Heaven-bound

- i. Invited/Offered
- ii. Promised
- iii. Guaranteed

*Healing Hope is eternal
and come's with the Almighty's blessed assurance!*

- JDP

D. Obedience = Fulfills the Great Commandment

E. Glory:

BE-ing healed & a hope-filled glorifier bring God glory!

- i. Returning to Him is Christlike...
- ii. He returned to the Father....
- iii. He will be returning to us...
- iv. So together, we can/will return to heaven!

THIS is Holy, Healing HOPE!

CLOSE:

Let's answer our 3 opening questions

1. **Is there a heaven?** - Jesus said Yes!

2. **Who gets to go to heaven?**

Those who, by God's grace and for God's glory, THROUGH The Gospel of Jesus Christ... are:

- Chosen
- Called
- Consummated

3. **How do the called, chosen, and the consummated get to heaven?**

- They **REALIZE** (m M m)
 - miracle
 - **MESSIAH**
 - Mission

- They **REMEMBER**
 - **God's Word**

Ezekiel 36:26

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
I will remove your heart of stone and
give you a (new) heart of flesh.*

- **God's Will**

John 3:16

- **God's Ways**

John 3:36

John 14:15

- They **RESPOND**
 - a. Heart-wrenching *Remorse*
 - b. Heart-transforming *Repentance*
 - c. **Holy Returning** to our Holy God!

Friends... PLEASE... don't ever forget...

1. There is an eternal heaven and an eternal hell.
2. ONLY Holy Hope REALIZES the TRUTH of The GOSPEL
3. Holy Hope REMEMBERS the LOVE of The GOSPEL
4. Healing Hope RESPONDS by RETURNING to the ONLY Holy God...
5. Healing Hope RETURNS with REPENTANCE & biblical BELIEF (a.k.a. "FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE") to The GOSPEL

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself (Jesus) bore our sins in His body on the tree/cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you (biblical Christian) have been healed.

*25 For you were straying like sheep, **but have now returned to the Shepherd** and the Overseer of your souls.*

Now THAT's "good news!"

That's HEALING Hope!

Let's PRAY!

(VIDEO: "The Gospel" - Ludy)