

SERMON NOTES

Christmas Hope
Matthew 2:13-23

Key thought: The treasure of Christmas assures you there is certainty in God's promised hope.

The word "hope" is most often used in the context of uncertainty. "I hope my family arrives safely." "I hope I can get off work early today." However, this is not the distinctive biblical meaning of hope. Biblical hope has both the desire of something good for the future, but also the certainty and expectation it will happen. In Hebrews 6:11 we read, "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end." What is the "full assurance" of hope? It means hope that is confident, filled with certainty. Not a "finger-crossing hope" but confidence and certainty that is based on the person and character of God! Listen to Psalm 42:

"Why are you in despair, O my soul? And **why** have you become disturbed within me? **Hope in God**, for I shall again praise Him **for** the help of His presence." *Psalm 42:5*

As we conclude our study of Matthew 2, the events that occur immediately after the visit of the magi remind us to "**Hope in God!**" **You can place your hope in the Lord because...**

GOD WILL FULFILL HIS REDEMPTIVE PLAN AND PURPOSE!

- God knows

- God speaks

- God acts

GOD IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN (IN YOUR LIFE)!

- Divine Guidance
 - The Word

 - The Spirit

- God given wisdom ("sanctified common sense" *Warren Wiersbe*)