

God with Us Brings Hope

Day 1 HOPE ETERNAL

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. (Genesis 28:15)

Did hope even exist back in the beginning? If it did, was it very important - or necessary? It seems there was little or no need for it. Life at the beginning was fulfilled. Humanity enjoyed wholeness and intimacy with God and with each other in God's perfect creation. Adam and Eve lived in contentment and harmony - until they fell to the temptation of the serpent.

When everything became broken, hope became vital. The trust that God would not leave Adam and Eve and their descendants became a lifeline. And when God established a covenant with Abraham, He cemented the hope of renewal and restoration that eventually would extend to all the people of earth. When God encountered Jacob at Bethel, He renewed that covenant and reinforced the hope rooted in His faithfulness: "I will not leave you until I have done but I have promised you" (Genesis 28:15).

Further along in history, we know the fulfillment of God's promise as Jesus the Messiah. His arrival, life, sacrifice, death, and resurrection reinforce and provide us with a continual resurgence of hope - that there is more than the finality of suffering and death. That God one day will completely restore life and relationship and all of creation. That God is always at work among us and within us. Because of Jesus, we can hope and hope confidently.

What do you hope for? How do you think your hope is the same or different from that of God's Old Testament followers? What encourages you and fuels your hope?