

“HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES”

Psalm 42, John 14:1-6

Open – statements of certainty from Futurist magazine.

- In 1893 a journalist Browne predicted that law will be simplified (in the next 100 years), the need for lawyers will diminish, and their fees drastically reduced!”
- In 1985 – teacher of Albert Einstein said, “IT doesn’t matter that he does, he will never amount to anything”
- In 1949 computer scientist Neumann said, it appears we have reached our limits of what is possible to achieve with computer technology”
 - Wrong! Why can’t we be more sure of things?

Two Truths

1. Life is Uncertain

- Life is not that certain nor predictable
 - David’s uncertainties
 - 1 Chr. 17 – David’s plan/desire to build Temple to worship God, Nathan (via God) “no” but Solomon would
 - David expected a yes but God said “no” = life is uncertain even a king
 - Here - Psalm 42 background - sons of Korah (David’s praise Team) expressing uncertainty of his kingdom, Absalom (one of D’s sons) rebelled against D’s kingship causing David leave the palace & Jerusalem, The tabernacle & Ark

- betrayed & driven away from his palace & sanctuary of God – hope shaken, again, his future uncertain

Psalm 42 – His uncertainty is seen in...

- Panting deer – fleeing from attacker (1)
- Tears = food day and night (3)
- People challenge his belief in God (3)
- Downcast, disturbed (5,6, 11)
- Feels like he is drowning/overwhelmed (7)
- Mourning and oppressed (9)
- Agony (physically (bones) & socially (taunting))
 - Have you even been overwhelmed by the uncertainty of life? Found yourself in the desperate time life David?
 - In politics (North Korea, Russia...), economics (house, investments...), health one day, illness the next, work (cannot find it, let go) relationships (brokenness, hurting), education (7 diff. jobs)
 - Life is full of uncertainty
 - People try so hard to find something to be sure of Realized that there is "No sure thing"
 - People work harder for \$, job, latest fad, phone...trying to find security, but still battle with how uncertain life is
 - David describes the way to find hope in uncertain times

2. Hope in uncertain times can only be found in a deep relationship with Jesus Christ

- Hope is a product of our relationship with God. Not hopeful? Something wrong in our relating with God. Of all people we should be the MOST hopeful!
- David's Hope
 - **1 Chr. 17** – God's no was a blessing to David. Son would be king, saw this blessing – when our plans don't go ahead, God closes a door, praise Him, move ahead r/t complain, do what we can and give glory to God
 - **Here** – Psalm 42 full of hope
- my soul longs for God (1)
- my soul thirsts for God, the living God (2)
 - Friend – hear it, sing it, but do I really feel that in my life?
- remembered worshipping God (4)
- hope in God (5b) by praising Him
- God as my **Saviour**, my **God** (5) personal
- God is deep calling him to depth (7)
- God's guidance and presence (8) day & night
- Prayer (8)
- **Rock** (9)
- Hope in God (11)
- Praise my Saviour & my God
 - David was really passionate for God

The Key to His Hope

Remembering God is Sovereign

- David knew when all else seemed lost, God was still “my Saviour”, “my God”, “my Rock” story - my personal approach to God
- David chose to praise God and being Hopeful in his struggles in life - how?

1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts **revere Christ as Lord**. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason **for the hope that you have**. But do this with gentleness and respect"

- David also knew God was calling him to go deeper in his faith - desperate and deep time

Illustration - Hebrew Expression “the place that God will choose” happens 21x in Torah. In Deut. 12-31 when sacrificing, eating (12), tithes (14), firstborn animals set aside and eaten (15), festivals 16), judicial proceedings (17), first fruits of the harvest (26), Moses at end of life – reading of law (31:11)

- "Now" - altar, courtyard. Temple. Jerusalem - where God dwells here and now
- Also a future site of God's choosing and presence
 - God promises, selects, God waits (for Israel/us to follow), God chooses when and where to reveal Himself
 - When Jesus was preparing the disciples for his departure, he had this in mind. The uncertainty of what they would do next without Him, after his directing, teaching, leading...that is why he prepared them let them know about the certainty of their future.
- **John 14:1-4** – “Jesus comforts his disciples”- ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many

rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.'

- Their future was certain and so is ours
- Regardless of present uncertainty in life, we can always be sure that God is at work. But it requires deep trust in God as sovereign!
- Whether present or future, our hope is found in the presence of God in uncertain times

Shoeboxes - hope in the presence of God

- That is our hope – no matter what our circumstances in life, God can reveal His presence
- Randy Frazee, in his book, *Believe*, says “Christian hope is an anchor to the soul. It stabilizes us during difficult times because we know that this is not how the story ends. It is rooted in our belief and trust in a personal God. If we believe these truths in our hearts (deeply) then it will produce a hope that doesn’t disappoint.”