

HOPE

By Wayne Vasilenko

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What does the word “Hope” mean to you? Most people equate the word Hope with a desire for something. For example, someone might say something like, “I hope I get that job,” or “I hope you are able to come over and visit with me.” Thinking back at the times I have personally used the word, these are the ways I have most often used the term. However, the word Hope has many more meanings as evidenced by two of the synonyms listed in the *Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia*, which are the words **Reliance** and **Dependence**. Since Hope appears in both the Old and the New Testaments, it is prudent to explore the meanings in the ancient texts as well.

HEBREW

- Original: תקוה
- Transliteration: **Tiqvah**
- Phonetic: **tik-vaw'**
- Definition:
 1. cord
 2. hope, expectation
 - a. hope
 - b. ground of hope
 - c. things hoped for, outcome
- Origin: from [H6960](#)
- TWOT entry: 1994d,1994e
- Part(s) of speech: Noun Feminine (BDB/Thayer)

GREEK

- Original: ἐλπίς
- Transliteration: **Elpis**
- Phonetic: **el-pece'**
- Definition:
 1. expectation of evil, fear
 2. expectation of good, hope
 - a. in the Christian sense
 1. joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation
 3. on hope, in hope, having hope
 - a. the author of hope, or he who is its foundation
 - b. the thing hoped for
- Origin: from a primary elpo (to anticipate, usually with pleasure) (BDB/Thayer)

As the ancient text definitions illustrate, the meaning of the word Hope is consistent with how we use it in general today. However, in the context of the Bible, the meaning in many cases goes to deeper levels of anticipation, especially when concerning prophetic events, which is the predominate use of the word employed in the Bible. The following verse is an example:

Colossians 1:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the **hope** of glory. (Emphasis mine)

Here we have the hope (or anticipation) of **Glory** which means among other things, Hope of Heaven, awesome splendor, or astounding beauty! One of the main reasons people come to the Lord is gain entrance into Heaven as opposed to the alternative, eternity in Hell. However, what gives Christians the audacity to state that they are indeed assured eternity in heaven? The agnostic would say it is impossible, after all, the agnostics say, “show me and I’ll believe,” while God says, “Believe and I’ll show you.” So how does God show us He is reliable and that He will deliver on this promises; how can we be sure that He says what He means, and means what He says? First, let us consider how we gain or develop trust with one another. Let us start with a simple illustration; suppose someone came up to you

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and asked to borrow a dollar, and said that they would pay you back tomorrow. So you loan them a dollar, and as promised, they paid you back the next day. Would you consider them trust worthy? Perhaps you might, but the fact that they paid you back once does not necessarily warrant trust in the future. After all, if they came to you a few weeks later asking to borrow \$100.00 with the same terms, you still might hesitate because one time does not establish a “track record” to warrant such trust, after all \$100.00 is a more substantial sum of money! However, what if over the course of a year they borrowed a dollar from you once a week, and without fail, always paid you back when they said they would. Would you then be able to trust them at their word? One would venture to say that over the course of a year (a 52 week, track record in this case) you would feel confident that their word has credibility and you would probably trust them in other things as well.

So how does this relate to the Bible, is there a “track record” contained within the bible that could give us the confidence to trust it as well? Much to the surprise of the agnostic, the “track record” of the bible is staggeringly reliable! Archeologists continually unearth things spoken of in the Bible formally chalked off as myth or legend by atheists and agnostics for years. Science is slowly but surely “catching up” to the bible as things mentioned in the bible thousands of years ago are consistently being proven true by science. When you consider that the bible was written by 40 different authors, from diverse backgrounds over a period of 1500 years with a common theme throughout, this should get your attention! There are literally thousands of prophecies contained in the bible, most have been fulfilled in minute detail and other are yet to be fulfilled. Jesus Himself pointed out many things that would take place subsequent to Him walking among us. He told us of signs that would indicate His return that we should be looking for, while also pointing out prophecies fulfilled to that point. He did this to give us “Hope” (Joyful expectation) so that when we live out our lives and face the trials we face, we will have the expectancy of a better life in the future. Do you have hope? The bible contains much to give us hope. If you take the time to read it, you will begin to see the reliability of God’s Word, you will also begin to see that not only can you depend on its historical accuracy; you will see the prophetic signs of future events contained in it unfolding before your eyes daily! You will see the signs of which Jesus spoke! If you want to have Hope for the future, read the following passage:

John 14:1-6 (AMP)

¹ DO NOT let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely on God; believe in *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely also on Me. ² In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you. ³ And when (if) I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And [to the place] where I am going, you know the way. ⁵ Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way? ⁶ Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.

This Gives me Hope... the same Hope can be yours! Simply put your trust in God and His Word.