

November 29 / Sunday

O Holy Night - A Thrill of Hope

Read [Matt. 12:15-21](#) / [Rom. 15:7-9, 12-13](#) / [1 Thess. 4:13-16](#)



30 / Mon – A weary world | Read [Proverbs 13:12](#)

In 1847, Adolphe Adam composed the well-known Christmas carol “O Holy Night.” Remember the words...*long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn...*? When was the last time you felt a ‘thrill of hope’? What were the circumstances? Where might you need renewed hope for today? This can be *your* ‘new morn’ as you open your eyes and your heart.

01 / Tue – Hopeless? | Read [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

For centuries the Jewish people clung to the promise of a Messiah who would come to save and restore them. It was the hope that kept them alive but as the years passed, hope grew dim. What was figuratively destroying them (v. 11)? What message did the Lord want Ezekiel to deliver to his people? What is the Holy Spirit saying to you right now about the places in your life where hope has died?

02 / Wed – Hope from the past | Read [Matthew 12:15-21](#)

This is the season we celebrated when Hope was born over 2000 years ago. Jesus came as was promised. The Jews believed the Messiah was coming for *them*. And if you weren't Jewish, that probably would not have given *you* a thrill of hope. Notice the last part of the prophecy in verse 21 (quoted from Isaiah). Our nation has seen increased turmoil in 2020. Do you believe there is any hope for peace here and in other troubled places all over the world? Why?

03 / Thu – Hope in the present | Read [Romans 15:7-13](#)

If you are not Jewish, that makes you a Gentile but according to these scriptures, you too can find the thrill of hope today. Why? Because you know the source. Where *does* your hope come from? What prerequisite do you see in verse 13? What keeps it pouring into your heart and mind and out through your eyes, smile, words, attitudes and actions? This is an unlimited supply when you keep the channels open. Who will you spill hope over onto this week?

04 / Fri – Hope for the future | Read [John 14:3](#) / [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

Examine any fear and you will see it is based in the future. It's tempting to base your expectations of the future on your experiences of the past or present. But that would be operating on some false assumptions that need to be challenged. The biggest fear many people face is their future death. But if Jesus brought hope in the past and he is your hope in the present, then his promise is your hope for the future. What encourages you the most from these verses?

05 / Sat – No false hope here | Read [Psalm 25:4-5](#)

In any growing relationship, honesty is essential. Do you find it difficult to be honest with God about loss of hope, that gut-level, no-holds-barred honesty? It is worth the effort. No matter your present circumstances, you can find hope on a daily basis when you acknowledge the truth of what-is and place it in the competent hands of the Living God, who is able to do far more than you can ask or even imagine. Now *that's* thrilling!