

What does the Bible say about:

HOPE

Preface.

Having written these notes many years ago, I feel that should they be published. You, the reader, may find them useful as a point of reference, similar to a Commentary, but much more focussed, in this case on a specific word where ever it appears in the (*AV - King James version*) Scriptures.

To that end, an index is at the front of this book, rather than is more usual, at the back.

These notes were handwritten over a long period as a result of trying to listen to the Lord whilst studying the meaning of the word **HOPE** in the Word of God - the Bible. The writer has used Crudens Concordance and gone through every verse (*and its' context*) where the word **HOPE** has appeared, writing out the verse concerned, followed by what the writer felt that the Lord God of Israel was saying about **HOPE** in that context. The writer has written them out in order to share what I felt that the Lord Jesus has revealed to me, they are in the order as found in the Concordance with an index in Biblical order at the back. May these notes be a source of instruction, comfort and uplifting to those who read them.

The writer is aware, of course, that which is written is influenced by his own thoughts and views! He therefore asks any readers of these studies to forgive him if they feel that is the case in reading any given study.

The writer hopes that these studies of God's Word may be an encouragement to others to 'dive' into the Word of God for themselves, rather than get God's Word 'pre-digested' by others. i.e. feed themselves with the meat of the word instead of milk, as the Scripture exhorts us in Hebrews 5:12-14.

These note are not intended to be a way of studying the Bible as in daily Bible study notes, but as an incentive for others to do real Bible study and write down what they feel the Lord is saying to them.

All quotations are taken from Schofield's Authorised Version of the Bible, with the 'thee's' and 'thou's' given their modern English equivalent. Nowadays, there is the "New King James" version.... Currently, I am using the CJB – Complete Jewish Bible.

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Other studies on a word in Scripture include:

FAITH
LOVE
RIGHTEOUSNESS
UNTIL
And WORD

As mentioned, all these were originally hand written and I am in the process of typing them into MS Word. This is taking a very long time!

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1. Ruth 1 v 12: "Turn again my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say, I have **HOPE**; I should have an husband also tonight, and should also bear sons,"

This **HOPE** of Naomi's is a forlorn **HOPE**less love. I believe that **HOPE** in Jesus is something which is a certainty, without doubt. The **HOPE** that Naomi has at this point is using the word in the totally worldly sense. She is saying that she doesn't even have **HOPE** in the worldly sense, "If I should say, that I have **HOPE**" shows that she had given up all **HOPE**. She was **HOPE**-less. She didn't even have a trace of **HOPE**, she had lost her husband and her sons leaving her all alone in the world, but, she had obviously not lost or left her God. She must have still had trust in Him that it was worth going back to the land of Israel, and Ruth must also have seen that in her mother-in-law. So today we have seen a glimpse of worldly **HOPE** and an implication of Spiritual **HOPE** in the context of this verse. Thank you Lord Jesus for this first look at **HOPE**.

2. Ezra 10 v 2: "And Shecaniah, the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said to Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have married foreign women of the people of the land; yet now there is **HOPE** in Israel concerning this thing."

"Now there is **HOPE** in Israel." Israel was crestfallen, they were the remnant brought back from captivity, by the Lord God of Israel, to the land and had immediately started marrying the women of the land, and, in the process, taking on board all the abominable doings of the people of the land who worshipped other gods. 'Marrying out' as it would be called today, was forbidden by God and they had just come to realise the enormity of their sin! This verse showed that they now saw **HOPE** for themselves in, as we see in the verses following, that they could be cleansed if they sent all the foreign wives (and the children) back to their fathers. Suddenly, God, having brought the sin to their attention through Ezra, brought to them a **HOPE**, a way back into His arms. So **HOPE** is a way back to God and to His way. Thank you Lord Jesus, the Lord God of Israel. Amen.

3. Job 4 v 6: "Is not this your fear, your confidence, your **HOPE**, and the uprightness of your ways?"

I see today, in this verse, a coupling together of fear, **HOPE**, confidence and uprightness. Eliphaz, is trying to establish that all these were (mis)placed by Job in his own righteousness instead of in the saving grace of God. This coupling together of **HOPE** with other things will, no doubt, happen over and over in these studies and will give me the insight into the meaning of the word **HOPE** in the Scriptures. Today, there is an indication that confidence (in God) and **HOPE** are mutually inclusive words; also fear (of God) and uprightness (before God). I look forward to future studies to see if these implications are witnessed to by them. In the context of this study, we know from Jesus Himself in Luke 13:1-5, that the premise of Eliphaz was wrong, that the evil that had come upon Job was as a result of Job's wrong doings. Thank you Lord Jesus, that you send the rain on the good and the bad, that we are called upon not to judge others (as did Eliphaz) but to repent ourselves of our wrongdoings in your sight.

4. Job 5 v 16: "So the poor have **HOPE**, and iniquity stops her mouth."

Eliphaz, as we know, did not have a right view of God. In today's language, we would say that he "had some funny ideas" about God and what He is. Yet there was some truth in what he said, and "the poor have **HOPE**" in God is, of course, one of those truths. As we know from the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3) that this doesn't only mean those who have little or no possessions, but also those who are poor in spirit too. My faith in Jesus gives me **HOPE**, be I poor or not in any sense of the word poor. It is the only **HOPE** available to the poor and Jesus will not deny it to them. So what is this **HOPE**? We shall see as these studies progress, but in the context of the verse before us today, it can only mean something which can be possessed, even by the poor. So **HOPE** is something for even the poorest to possess. Thank you Lord Jesus.

5. Job 7 v 6: "My days are swifter than a weavers shuttle, are spent without **HOPE**."

When Job spoke these words, he didn't realise what was going on in the Heavens, how the Lord had such confidence in Job, that he would remain faithful to God, that He allowed Satan to test him. Job suffered much on a personal level, much more than any other individual (Jesus apart). At no time would he "curse God and die" (Job 2:9) as his wife exhorted him to do at one stage. Job says in this verse that he was without **HOPE**, and in a worldly sense he was, yet as one reads on through Job, it is apparent that at no time did he lose his faith in God. He had no **HOPE** then, because there was no person on earth who could do anything to help him in his physical and spiritual torment - "you scare me with dreams and terrify me with visions" he says in v14. Job was not, as I used to think, only in bodily torment, but in spiritual torment as Satan tried all he knew to make Job turn away from his faith in God and curse God (Job 1:11 and 2:5). Lord God of Israel, may my **HOPE** and faith in you be as strong as that of Job, whatever you allow to come against me. Amen.

6. Job 8 v 13: "So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hypocrite's **HOPE** shall perish,"

If **HOPE**, as in this verse, be **HOPE** in anything other than the living Lord God of Israel, then that **HOPE** shall perish. Bildad was, of course, quite right in this part of what he was saying. Bildad, like Eliphaz speaking before him, had some truth in his heart about God, but also was unable to perceive the situation around Job. Bildad obviously didn't know about this **HOPE** in the Lord God, he too could only see in human terms with purely human eyes. The only **HOPE** he could see was the human forlorn **HOPE**, not the true **HOPE** in God. None of these people, Job nor his "comforters" had any inkling of what was going on in the heavens that we know by reading Job 1 and 2. But Job held fast to his trust in the living God. For that trust, faith (or as we shall surely see) **HOPE** in God, Job was eventually given more than he originally had, Job 42:10ff. God is always faithful to Himself and to us, but the more surely that we hold to our faith, trust (or **HOPE**) in Him, the more He is able to bless us. We must not fall into the trap of thinking that this would be material blessings (it may be), but we must simply look into our own lives to see what the Lord God wants to change about us and submit that area of ourselves to Him to be changed. Amen.

7. Job 8 v 14: "Whose **HOPE** shall be cut off, whose trust shall be a spiders web.:"

This **HOPE** is changed to "confidence" in the Schofield King James Bible so that this verse reads *Whose confidence shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spiders web.* This gives us a clue as to the meaning of **HOPE**. Although **HOPE** in this verse is "cut off," this is because it refers to the false **HOPE** (or **HOPE** in false things) of those who "forget God" and the "hypocrites" of the previous verse. Thus giving credence to the feeling that the word **HOPE** means more looking to a future certainty, or looking to something or someone trustworthy. In reading this chapter through, I am aware of the element of truth in, this time, what Bildad was saying, and how this is religion - churchianity NOT Christianity - "having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it," II Timothy 3:5. What a great proportion of the Church is in this position today. Lord Jesus, I lift up to you for your love and mercy, all those who fit this category today, that you bring them into a revelation of your **HOPE**. Amen.

8. Job 11 v 18: "And you shall be secure, because there is **HOPE**; yes, you shall dig about you, and you shall take your rest in safety."

More religion here, this time from Zophar. He starts off by telling Job that he was lying (v3) and goes on to tell Job again that his situation was brought about by his own iniquities! Oh how often this happens today - "you're not healed because you don't have enough faith!" This is religion without **HOPE** that those without any real perception of the character or power of God try to put upon others. The reality of our situation and that of Job is in this verse today, "because there is **HOPE**;" we can only have that **HOPE** if we have a realisation of the true character of God, of His mercy and love and justice, and most of all, a realisation of the price He was prepared to pay and indeed did pay in order that we might have this **HOPE** which the friends of Job patently did not have. In **HOPE** is the difference between religion and Christianity, between churchianity and Christianity. O thank you Lord Jesus for the **HOPE** of salvation to come which you have given to us. Hallelujah! Praise you Lord Jesus that Job did not let the religion of his friends move him away from his faith and **HOPE** in you. Help me Lord Jesus to always hold firm to that same **HOPE** in you. Amen.

9. Job 11 v 20: "But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their **HOPE** shall be as one dying."

Back to the **HOPE** of the worldly ones. **HOPE** in this context is no **HOPE**. It is only as that of those who **HOPE** not to die but are dying! It is a **HOPE** without **HOPE** It is a **HOPEless HOPE**. This **HOPE** in this verse before us today is "a **HOPE** against **HOPE**" as they say in the world, in other words, a no chance **HOPE**, one that is a false **HOPE** without any justification at all. This is the fate of the wicked is what the Lord God is telling us today. Quick! Turn to Jesus for His salvation, leave the company of the wicked! There is only one chance for true **HOPE** - Jesus of Nazereth, the Messiah of Israel - take it today, place your trust and your life in the hands of Jesus. Amen.

10. Job 14 v 7: "For there is **HOPE** for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its' tender branch will not cease."

O dear, this **HOPE** doesn't at first seem to fall into either of the categories I had thought were "it," worldly or heavenly. Lord Jesus, what are you telling me? What, of course Lord, thank you. This is a heavenly **HOPE** - that **HOPE** in you never ends, just being cut down doesn't mean that I will not blossom again in your service; for you are the root of my belief and that root is everlasting for it is Jesus Himself! O wonderful revelation, thank you Lord Jesus for no-one perishes that has that root of trust, faith, **HOPE**, belief in you! You are the source of all life and life is **HOPE** - **HOPE** in you. If I have no **HOPE** or faith in you, then I have no **HOPE**, full stop. **HOPE** in you is eternal, for you are eternal life. As the verses following this one say, "at the scent of water it will bud," this is the water, that brings life (John 4:14). Jesus, then, is this source of living water or **HOPE**, that springs up into everlasting or eternal life. Thank you Lord Jesus for these wonderful revelations of yourself, the Son of God. All praise and glory and honour to you! Amen.

11. Job 14 v 19: "The waters wear the stones; you wash away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth, and you destroy the **HOPE** of man."

Job here is talking of the Lord God when he says "and you destroy the **HOPE** of man." So what **HOPE** is this that the Lord God destroys? As the verse says: "The **HOPE** of man." This **HOPE** (or trust) is in things other than God Himself, whatever a man trusts (or **HOPE**s) in that is not God, then God will destroy or bring to nothing that **HOPE** (or trust). So any **HOPE** (or trust) in anyone or anything that is not God, i.e. in one's (or another's) strength or wealth or position, is doomed to ultimate failure, it cannot succeed - it is idolatry! Job here is speaking the word of God into his situation, justifying his own belief, trust, **HOPE** in the living Lord God to bring him through this situation in which he found himself. He didn't understand the situation or why it had arisen, but he trusted God none the less. This is the level of **HOPE** which we have as Christians, we cannot give up this **HOPE** because it is founded in the true and eternal God. Thank God for Jesus and the **HOPE** He has given me! Amen.

12. Job 27 v 8: "For what is the **HOPE** of the hypocrite, though he has gained, when God takes away his soul?"

The hypocrite - one who is a pretender, who simulates virtue - my dictionary tells me. The **HOPE** of a hypocrite, though he seems to have much to our eyes, this is transient and only lasts as long as life itself, is nothing when he or she dies (!), when God takes away the soul. The **HOPE** that he or she (the hypocrite) has is as nothing, it is all founded upon worldly values which are of no eternal use whatsoever. The **HOPE** of the hypocrite vanishes away with life itself when the Lord God takes away the soul - when death comes. So, the **HOPE** of one who feigns righteousness and virtue, maybe goes to church regularly and does many good works (in the eyes of the world), is worthless in eternal terms and is baseless, vain and will not come to pass. We see today, another **HOPE** that is no **HOPE**, a **HOPEless HOPE**, not based upon any of God's promises, a worthless **HOPE**. Thank you Lord Jesus, father God, that my **HOPE** is in you and that this is a true **HOPE** founded upon your promises which are trustworthy. Amen.

13. Job 41 v 9: "Behold, the **HOPE** of him is in vain; shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him?"

Leviathan was a mythical seven headed sea monster, according to Black's Bible dictionary. The Lord was telling Job that "*what **HOPE** has anyone of catching a Leviathan, even to see one would make one recognise the futility of even trying to catch one.*" Jesus was not saying that such a creature existed, only that even the thought of such a thing would terrify. All **HOPE** of ever having superiority over such a beast would melt away, leaving the loins trembling with fear. One would have no **HOPE** if faced with such a creature for real. Yet the Lord God would have such **HOPE**. Job was being rebuked by the Lord God for daring to suppose, in front of his friends, that he had any righteousness of his own or any wisdom. Job had to be brought back to the place where he acknowledged no other **HOPE** than that he had in the Lord God. As we know from the following chapter of Job, God bestowed more upon Job than he had before all the troubles were allowed to fall upon him. Thank you Lord Jesus, that whatever befalls each of us that believe upon you, you always have better in store for us, even if we don't see it until we are in eternity with you - this is my **HOPE** in you. Hallelujah! Amen.

14. Psalm 78 v 7: "That they might set their **HOPE** in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments;"

"Set their **HOPE** in God." As Simon Peter said, Lord, to whom shall we go?" in John 6:68. Where else can I set my **HOPE** but in the living God, the Lord God of Israel? There is none other place that I could place my **HOPE** that would have any chance at all of my **HOPE** being realised. This whole Psalm is about how the whole nation of Israel, all twelve tribes had forsaken their God and forgotten all His commandments and the wonders He had performed in the past - they had simply gone their own way and followed after vain **HOPE**. O "That they might set their **HOPE** in God, and not forget the works God, but keep His commandments." At present, it doesn't look as though they are about to do this, but Praise God, His word says that Israel will once again "set their **HOPE** in God." Lord Jesus, when will we see this come to pass, that your glory will once again rest over the land and the people of Israel? Keep my **HOPE** set in you Lord Jesus. Amen.

15. Psalm 146 v 5: "Happy is he that has the God of Jacob for his help, whose **HOPE** is in the Lord, his God;"

"Happy?" This is not any sort of happiness that the world knows about or can simulate, not for very long anyway. How could it? This is the happiness of one "that has the God of Jacob for his help." This would appear to link together **HOPE** in the Lord with help and happiness from the God of Jacob. If this is so, then **HOPE** in God would seem to have results - help from the Lord God of Israel. Maybe this will be confirmed in a later study. I'll have to exercise patience about this. Certainly, this is a **HOPE** in the Lord God and not anywhere else. The context of this verse is all about the wonderful things that this God of Jacob has done and of how much help that he has received from this same God and gives reason as to why they (and us) should place our **HOPE** in this same God - the Lord God of Israel (Jacob). All praise and glory and honour and might and power to you Lord Jesus, for you are worthy of our trust and **HOPE** in all things. Amen.

16. Proverbs 10 v 28: "The **HOPE** of the righteous shall be gladness, but the expectation of the wicked shall perish."

It does not say in this verse that the wicked shall perish. It says that what the wicked expect shall perish or not come to pass. In contrast, "the **HOPE** of the righteous shall be gladness," in other words, the very fact that the righteous has a **HOPE** will bring gladness to him or her. So what do we see today of **HOPE**? In these Proverbs of Solomon (who was given great wisdom from God to enable him to understand these things), each verse give opposites or contrasts like with unlike. So today we see the **HOPE** of the righteous contrasted with the expectations of the wicked. We may draw the conclusion therefore, that since the expectations of the wicked shall perish, then the **HOPE** of the righteous shall continue for ever. It may be a little early in these studies to hold firmly to this conclusion, but I'm sure that future studies will confirm or deny this conclusion. Lord Jesus, thank you that you are my **HOPE** and that you will never perish. Hallelujah! Amen.

17. Proverbs 11 v 7: "When a wicked man dies, his expectation shall perish; and the **HOPE** of unjust men perishes."

Conversely to the last study, the two parts of this verse say the same thing and complement one another. It is saying that **HOPE** and expectation in the wicked will perish (or not come to pass). So we see that in this case the **HOPE** of the wicked is no **HOPE** at all, as it says here, "the **HOPE** of unjust men perishes." Lord Jesus, thank you and praise you that my **HOPE** is in you and that this **HOPE** will never perish! Hallelujah.

18. Proverbs 13 v 12: "**HOPE** deferred makes the heart sick; but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life."

"**HOPE** deferred makes the heart sick" is the same words in the N.I.V. and N.E.B. Bibles. If something to which we look forward, takes a long time to materialise, then we can get sick of waiting, but when "it" finally happens, doesn't it make the heart glad. I remember when I was a child, and the same was observed in my own lads, we never seemed to get to the seaside to which our parents were taking us, but what pleasure, what joy when we caught that first glimpse of the sea (!) and when we finally walked onto the beach - Wow! Isn't it that to which this verse refers? This is a worldly **HOPE**. Does this refer to a Spiritual **HOPE** too? My **HOPE** in Jesus doesn't make my heart sick 'cos I know that my **HOPE** will be fulfilled when I go to be with Him when I die - if He doesn't come again first. I have to admit to struggling over this verse and the **HOPE** in it, I tried to explain it in my own strength and spiritualise this **HOPE**, but the Lord Jesus finally managed to get through to me, by bringing to mind those summer trips to the seaside and made me see that this **HOPE** is a worldly **HOPE**, not a spiritual **HOPE**. Thank God for Jesus! I mustn't try to spiritualise everything in the Scriptures - some of it refers to the world and the ways of the world. Thank you Lord Jesus that you persevere with us and you do finally get through to me!

19. Proverbs 14 v 32: "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness, but the righteous has **HOPE** in his death."

"**HOPE** in his death?" What can this mean? It can only mean that death provides **HOPE** for the righteous person. We now know through Jesus, that when we die, we go to be with Him, in Heaven for all eternity, that is our **HOPE** if we believe upon Jesus as the Son of God and confess Him as our saviour. Death is but a doorway to that **HOPE**. For the wicked, their end at death is to be driven away into the utter darkness by his or her own wickedness. Our **HOPE** in Jesus then, is why this proverb says "the righteous has **HOPE** in his death." this is also looking forward, at the time it was written, to the death of Jesus upon the Cross, which gave us Gentiles our **HOPE** in the living Lord God of Israel. Thank you Lord Jesus, Lord God of Israel, that you gave us your **HOPE**. All glory and honour and praises are due to your name. Amen.

20. Proverbs 19 v 18: "Chasten your son while there is **HOPE**, and let not your soul spare for his crying."

"While there is **HOPE**." This implies that **HOPE** can have an end, so what sort of **HOPE** is this? Our **HOPE** in Jesus has an end - when we join Him in Heaven as part of His Bride, the Church. The context shows us that the **HOPE** in this verse is not that **HOPE**. Worldly **HOPE**? Well that **HOPE** certainly has an end when the one who has this **HOPE** dies if not before. I think that we all understand this verse to refer to chastening a son before he is too old to be chastised or chastened, this **HOPE** then has an end relating to age, not of the one hoping, but of the object of that **HOPE**. So it seems that we have a third category of **HOPE**. What then of this **HOPE**? It seems that there is no certainty of this **HOPE** coming to pass, but that the **HOPE** remains up until a certain point in the life of the son of the father. The upbringing of the son has a large bearing upon the character of that son and this is where this **HOPE** lies. However, the upbringing of a son is not the only influence upon his character. So this **HOPE** is different, it is an uncertain **HOPE** that lasts only for a period of time, that may or may not come to pass. It is not a false **HOPE** as in the worldly **HOPE**, nor is it a Heavenly **HOPE** with the certainty of what happens to our souls when we die. Well Lord Jesus, you've shattered my pre-conceived ideas of **HOPE** - **HOPE**fully I shall be more open to you in these studies in future. Amen. Thank you Lord Jesus.

21. Proverbs 26 v 12: "See you a man wise in his own conceit? There is more **HOPE** of a fool than of him."

This is a no **HOPE**, a waste of time **HOPE**, a **HOPE**less **HOPE**. One who thinks that he knows it all has no **HOPE** at all because he wont listen to anyone or any reason because he already knows it all and all about whatever subject is broached. Haven't we all met people like this? "There is more **HOPE** of a fool than of him." We know that a fool has no **HOPE** simply because he is a fool. This is a worldly **HOPE** this no **HOPE**, a fool's **HOPE**, a misplaced **HOPE**. A fool here is not to be a label applied to one who is slow of speech, or to one without much brain power. A fool is one who has abilities and knowledge, but goes the way of his or her own lusts in spite of being able to see the results of his or her own way, one who ignores the inevitable. One who trusts in Jesus absolutely and goes Jesus' way is the opposite of a fool. Lord Jesus, keep me from such foolishness that would have me going my own way instead of yours. Amen.

22. Proverbs 29 v 20: "See you a man that is hasty in his words? There is more **HOPE** of a fool than of him."

This likening to a fool and his **HOPE** is a repetitive theme in Proverbs. It implies that there is no **HOPE** for a fool. Yet, here again today we see that the fool has more **HOPE** than some others! A man who speaks hastily has less **HOPE** than a fool is a paraphrase of this verse before us. So what is "a man that is hasty in his words?" It is one who speaks out in a situation without first thinking through the whole situation; one who utters judgement of a person before the whole story of the situation is known; one who "has an itchy trigger finger" is one of today's sayings of this type of man (or woman); or one who leaps to conclusions - invariably wrong of course. For this type of person (man or woman) there is little or no **HOPE**. They tend to be unstable or double minded because they keep changing their mind as a situation is revealed (James 1:8). At one time this person may be up in the clouds praising Jesus and the next, they may be saying "if God doesn't do xyz, then I'll never trust/worship/love Him again." Lord Jesus, keep me, I pray, in one mind about you, trusting you and keep me too, to be slow to speak, not to be hasty in my words, that I may retain the **HOPE** that I have in you. For the sake of your glory and my salvation. Amen.

23. Ecclesiastes 9 v 4: "For to him that is joined to all the living there is **HOPE**; for a living dog is better than a dead lion."

Now this is a strange one altogether. The context of this verse is that Solomon wrote this book in later life after he had been corrupted by his many foreign wives. The book is written "in the flesh" (not that it isn't Scripture, of course!) as a look back upon the writer's own life. **HOPE**, it is stated in this chapter only lasts until death, thus, **HOPE** in this context is a worldly **HOPE** which, if it is not fulfilled in life, will never be fulfilled at all. Basically - "while there is life, there is **HOPE**" - but that **HOPE** is extinguished by death - "for a living dog is better than a dead lion." Lord Jesus, I praise you that the **HOPE** you have given me does not die with me, but is fulfilled when I die. Hallelujah! My wife is presently singing in the kitchen - "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" How true, my **HOPE** comes from God and from God alone! Hallelujah again (and again and again and again and). Amen.

24. Jeremiah 2 v 25: "Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst; but you said, There is no **HOPE**. No; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go."

"There is no **HOPE**!" Jeremiah is telling Israel that when they say this (and many other things), they are lying and nothing less. He is telling them that the things they are saying are not true, and in this particular case, they are saying "there is no **HOPE**" and it simply isn't true. Jeremiah is telling all Israel that there is **HOPE** in the Lord God of Israel. The whole context of this verse, the whole chapter is about how wrong they are in so many things. He repeats how the Lord is seeking them, pleading with them to return to Him and His ways. v35 shows how Jesus is pleading with them even though they were saying that they were without sin and hence didn't need God by implication. For Israel, the Lord God continues to plead with them, this is why there is **HOPE**. Hallelujah! Praise you Lord Jesus, that just as you will never give up on your own people Israel, so you won't give up on us and that for those who have accepted you as Lord and Saviour, our **HOPE** in you is everlasting and certain!

25. Isaiah 57 v 10: "You are wearied in the greatness of your way; yet said you not, There is no **HOPE**. You have found the life of your hand; therefore, you were not grieved."

This paragraph is headed *False leaders rebuked* in my Bible, by one who is much better versed in the Scriptures than I. In that context therefore is this verse and in particular "yet said you not, There is no **HOPE**." So what are you showing me of **HOPE**, Lord Jesus in this context? These false leaders had failed to tell the people that in the ways which they were propounding, "There is no **HOPE**." The Lord God of Israel was, through Isaiah, rebuking these false leaders of Israel for misleading the people of Israel, and leading them away from the living Lord God of Israel, and out of the **HOPE** that only He could offer. These false leaders were to be punished for this and also, just as much today, are those false leaders (be they vicars, bishops, archbishops, deacons, pastors or what have you) who would and do teach those who follow them to not believe all Scripture or mis-interpret it or teach that their traditions are valuable in the sight of the living God of Israel. Thank God for Jesus and the **HOPE** that I have in Him. Amen.

26. Jeremiah 18 v 12: "And they said, There is no **HOPE**, but we will walk after our own plans, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart."

This verse may be paraphrased: "*They said, you're talking rubbish, we'll do our own thing.*" "*God isn't like that, He wouldn't allow any bad thing to happen to us,*" is what people say today and it is exactly the same sentiment as that expressed by the people of Israel to Jeremiah. Thank God that we do have that **HOPE** in Jesus, that whatever He allows to happen to us, which may seem evil, it is allowed Jesus to teach us something (see James 1:2-3). We do not lose that **HOPE** just because things seem to be against us or not going smoothly in what we are trying to do. The people of Israel were saying to Jeremiah, who had just spoken the word of warning to them in prophesy from the Lord, that the **HOPE** of salvation was not a **HOPE** and that their way was good enough for them. Scriptures themselves record what happened to these people! They were patently wrong when they said "there is no **HOPE**," there is and we have it! Praise God in the highest that He made that **HOPE** possible for us Gentiles through the Cross of Jesus! Hallelujah! My **HOPE** is in Jesus.

27. Jeremiah 14 v 8: "O the **HOPE** of Israel, its Saviour in time of trouble, why should you be like a sojourner in the land, and like a wayfaring man who turns aside to tarry for a night?"

"O the **HOPE** of Israel." Who was this **HOPE**? None other than the Lord God of Israel, of course - "its Saviour in time of trouble." This is very true, but the circumstances were that the people of Israel preferred to go their own way, giving lip service to that wonderful Lord God of Israel by performing outward the rituals of Judaism, but that was all. Rather like a very large proportion of the Church today unfortunately. "Oh, if we do He(God) wants (the rituals etc.), He'll (God) look after us while I go out to work and then spend the money as I want," is what is happening then and today. I used to think (for years) that to be a "good Christian," all I had to do was to go to Church twice on Sundays instead of just the once and that was it. Now, with my **HOPE** in Jesus, I know that it demands much, much more - my whole life! Thank you Lord Jesus that you have revealed these things to me and have given me your **HOPE**. Help me to live that total commitment to you in all that I do, 24 hours a day. Amen.

28. Jeremiah 17 v 13: "O Lord, the **HOPE** of Israel, all who forsake you shall be ashamed, and they who depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters."

"The **HOPE** of Israel." Yes, Israel does have a **HOPE** in God, they look for their Messiah coming, having not seen in their Scriptures that He is coming twice! When the disciples asked Jesus if He was going to restore the kingdom to Israel at that time, He didn't say *Sorry, you've got that wrong - there isn't going to be any restoration of kingdoms to Israel*. He said, *It isn't for you to know the times or the seasons* (Acts 1:7). O yes, Jesus is the **HOPE** of Israel too, He is the **HOPE** of us Gentile believers we know. Jesus is also the **HOPE** of Jewish believers too and the Scriptures tell them (and us) that the kingdom (but this time a Heavenly one) will be restored to Israel, at that time 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel shall go out into the whole world to tell of the salvation which is offered to all by the Lord God of Israel. This **HOPE** too is a certainty in Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen.

29. Jeremiah 17 v 7: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose **HOPE** the Lord is."

In this verse, we have trust and **HOPE** linked together. trusting in the Lord and **HOPE** in the Lord being "twinned" as you might say. If I have **HOPE** in the Lord Jesus, it is because I trust Him to do what He says - to give me salvation. That is my **HOPE** in the Lord, my eternal **HOPE**, the **HOPE** that is true and trustworthy. This verse tells me that because I do trust the Lord Jesus and my **HOPE** is the Lord Jesus, then I am able to be blessed by Him. I must not make the mistake of looking for that blessing to be material, although it may be so, but the real blessing is knowing that my **HOPE** is not false but true, that my salvation is guaranteed by Jesus. That is why He came to live, die, be buried and raised from the dead - for me - as long as I accept that salvation by confessing my need and repenting of my rejection of Him and looking to live with Jesus as my Lord. This is my blessed **HOPE**. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

30. Jeremiah 31 v 17: "And there is **HOPE** in your end, says the Lord, that your children shall come again to their own border.:"

The Lord God of Israel is speaking to His Nation Israel here, He is speaking not only of the return of the Nation of Israel to the land, for that is purely temporal, but is speaking of the **HOPE** of spiritual end of that Nation of Israel: That as a Nation they shall be saved and restored to praise and worship the living Lord God of Israel in spirit and in truth. There are many prophecies in Scripture of the restoration of the Nation to the land of Israel and even a blind person cannot fail to realise that this has begun to happen, in 1948 they became recognised as a State. There are, of course, still very many Jews all over the world who haven't yet returned to the land. In this verse today, it refers to all this (prophesy again) but the first part of the verse "and there is **HOPE** in your end," refers to their spiritual state as a Nation: "there is **HOPE**." This **HOPE** is there for Israel the same as it is for the Church. In the same way that the Church consists of individuals who have repented and turned to God (Jesus), so shall the Nation of Israel consist of individuals who have repented and turned to God (Messiah - Jesus). We should not be surprised that our **HOPE** should also be their **HOPE**, for their God is our God and they are still His people, we have the privilege of being grafted in amongst them (Romans 11:17) to love that

same God and to have the same **HOPE**. So, today, we see that this **HOPE** is universal, for all nations, not only for Israel. Hallelujah!

31. Jeremiah 50 v 7: "All that found them have devoured them; and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the Lord, the habitation of justice, even the Lord, the **HOPE** of their fathers."

Digressing from **HOPE** for a moment, these oppressors of Israel had convinced themselves that because the Nation of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, that it was good for them as oppressors. Their mistake was that they took pride against the Lord God of Israel's anointed people, so they were themselves to be destroyed. Now, this "**HOPE** of their fathers," what was it? It was the belief of the Israelites that the Lord their God, who had anointed them as His own people, would save them from whatever mess into which they had put themselves. They failed to realise that going their own way, ignoring the Lord God of Israel, paying only "lip service" to Him, and this **HOPE** were mutually exclusive things to them as individuals. As a Nation, the **HOPE** was there in that God would preserve them as a Nation until the time when they would praise and worship Him in the way that God demands. Until that time, as individuals, they were not under His protection and their **HOPE** was false. We see today then, that we can **HOPE** in the right thing from the wrong attitude or motives and that **HOPE**, although true in itself, is a false **HOPE** to those who think that all they have to do is "pay lip Service" to God - just go through the motions. Lord Jesus, keep me, please, in the truth and light, to walk always in your way. Amen.

32. Lamentations 3 v 21: "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I **HOPE**."

In all the things that had come against Jeremiah (and derision from all about one is a very powerful thing), he didn't lose sight of the **HOPE** that he had in God. Even though he was railing against God and man at this time, he still held fast to the eternal **HOPE** that he knew was his in God. Jeremiah recalled to His mind all the promises that the Lord God of Israel had made to him, all the certainties and prophesies that he had heard and witness. "Therefore have I **HOPE**" he wrote. It doesn't matter what happens to us, and very few of us have even begun to suffer as did Jeremiah, we must hold fast to that **HOPE** that is given to us by Jesus, that same Lord God of Israel and Jeremiah. We have only to remember (or recall to mind) all those things that God has promised us, those things which we have witnessed, to re-inforce that **HOPE** that we have in Jesus. Praise God for Jesus! Amen.

33. Lamentations 3 v 29: "He puts his mouth in the dust, if so be there may be **HOPE**."

How does a man "put his mouth in the dust?" It is when he bows down to the earth in subservience to another. The more respect the other demands or deserves, the lower one prostrates oneself until ultimately, the man is flat on his face on the earth. In this position to the Lord God (and there is none other who deserves such respect!), in total submission. There **IS HOPE** for us, the eternal **HOPE** of salvation offered so freely to us through Jesus His Son. This is the **HOPE** in this verse, as it goes on to say in V31, No matter what troubles and persecutions come upon us, "the Lord will not cast off forever." Those troubles and persecutions may or may

not be as a result of our own doings (or lack of), they will never destroy the **HOPE** that we have in Jesus if we repent and own His name. Hallelujah! Even though I may stray away, Jesus is waiting for me to return. The **HOPE** is eternal, everlasting! Amen.

34. Ezekiel 19 v 5: "Now when she saw that she had waited, and her **HOPE** was lost, then she took another of her whelps, and made him a young lion."

Now this "her **HOPE** was lost." we have then a **HOPE** that can be lost. In this example, the young lion was gone for ever, the **HOPE** in that young lion would never return. So what sort of **HOPE** is this that can be lost? These lions, that were whelps, were the princes of Israel, we are told in V1. So this **HOPE** that was lost was placed in men and not in God, so it is an earthly or worldly **HOPE**. So we see once again that a worldly **HOPE**, which may stand for a time, eventually is lost and of no worth. I must be wary and ensure that I do not place my trust in a worldly **HOPE**. The Lord God of Israel, Jesus, has given me a gift of discernment, that, if I exercise it continually, shall see when something in which many may put their trust, is a worldly **HOPE** and not for me. Jesus, by the Holy Spirit has done this for all who **HOPE** and trust in Him, for our protection and edification - not just for the individual, but for all believers. Amen. All praise and glory and honour and might to you Lord Jesus.

35. Ezekiel 37 v 11: "Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, our bones are dried, and our **HOPE** is lost; we are cut off on our part."

The whole house of Israel was in error, both in their ways and in thinking that their **HOPE** was lost. They had, as a nation, lost sight of the Living Lord God of Israel and hence, lost sight of the **HOPE** that is theirs in that same Lord God of Israel. It was not their **HOPE** that was lost at all! It was they themselves that were lost, they had turned away from following God and, just the same as any or every one else, they had no **HOPE** because they were failing to follow in the ways of the Lord God (of Israel). There is only one God in all eternity and only one **HOPE** for that eternity, the two are inseparably linked together. If one "loses" God, then the **HOPE** that He offers is lost too, conversely, one cannot lose that **HOPE** unless one first "loses" God. We could say that God is **HOPE** and **HOPE** is God, it is pretty close to complete truth. Thank you Lord Jesus for the **HOPE** that you have given me, help me to ever walk in your ways that I may never "lose" that **HOPE**. Amen.

36. Hosea 2 v 15: "And I will give her vineyards there, and the Valley of Achor for a door of **HOPE**; and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt."

She? This is Israel, the Lord's own Nation! She had been whoring after the flesh, sin and the world just as she is now, but this is the Lord's promise to His own Nation: the Valley of Achor (meaning trouble) shall become like a door (to go through) into **HOPE**. This **HOPE** is that eternal **HOPE** that only God can give, and here in this passage He is promising it to His Holy Nation Israel - obviously when they turn back to Him. It is a **HOPE** promised not only to that Holy Nation of Israel (wonderful that the Lord God of Israel is, my general reading of the Bible from beginning to end, was today Acts 10!), but as we read in Acts 10 that the Lord God of Israel

also included in that promise of **HOPE**, every nation that trusts in Him through His Son Jesus! Thank you Lord Jesus, that although I am not of that Holy Nation of Israel, I am now included in that promise of eternal **HOPE**. O wonderful saviour, all blessings and honour and glory and might to you, dear loving Lord Jesus.

37. Joel 3 v 16: "The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord will be the **HOPE** of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel."

The children of Israel, His people (in Hebrew, I'm told, to say something twice is to emphasise it greatly!) have the Lord God of Israel as their **HOPE**. In the same way that salvation is offered to many but not always accepted, so this **HOPE** (which comes to us Gentiles as part of salvation in the name of Jesus), belongs to Israel - to be accepted or rejected by them. we know from the Scriptures that they have mostly rejected both the Lord God of Israel and His **HOPE**. we know too from Scripture that they will eventually accept the Lord God of Israel and recognise Jesus as their Messiah (Christ is the Greek word for Messiah). It doesn't look much like that today, one must admit, but this passage before us today does tell of events still future where the Lord will gather the nations into the Valley of Jehoshaphat and will shake the heavens and the earth, "but the Lord will be the **HOPE** of His people." Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.

38. Zechariah 9 v 12: "Turn to the stronghold, you prisoners of **HOPE**; even today do I declare that I will render double to you,"

"Come back to the stronghold, you prisoners who wait in **HOPE**" is how the N. E. B. translates the first part of this verse. These prisoners were not held prisoner by **HOPE**, the prisoners are those who have **HOPE** in the Lord God of Israel, those who still trusted in the Lord to save them from their circumstances. The paragraph (Zechariah 9:10-17) is headed: "Future deliverance of Judah and Ephraim (Israel)" by the Schofield Authorised Version of the Bible. This confirms to me that this **HOPE** was that of those who trusted in the living God despite their persecution by the rest of the nation(s) of Ephraim and Judah who had gone away from the "stronghold" which was trust in the Lord God of Israel. There is always a believing remnant of the Nation of Israel, even though we cannot tell who or where they are, God knows, just as He did in the days of Elijah when he ran from Jezebel in 1 Kings 19, and told Elijah that he was not alone, but the Lord told him that there were still 7,000 believers in Israel. Those 7,000 in Elijah's day had **HOPE** and Zechariah in this verse tells of the prisoners who had **HOPE** in his own day. Those who trust in the Lord God of Israel for their **HOPE** of salvation, in spite of the witness they are called to be under circumstances of ridicule or worse, must retain their trust or **HOPE** in Jesus in the knowledge that they are not alone and of the promise at the end of this verse - "today do I declare that I will render double to you!" O Hallelujah Lord Jesus! All praise and glory and honour to. Amen.

39. Acts 16 v 19: "And when her masters saw that the **HOPE** of their gains was gone, they caught Silas and Paul, and drew them into the market place to the rulers,"

" The HOPE of their gains as gone " O dear, this HOPE was gone all right and it certainly wasn't any HOPE of eternal life or of any spiritual benefit to them that was gone! The HOPE that they had lost was the HOPE of money, a purely worldly HOPE. Now while this girl had the evil spirit of divination, she was their HOPE of worldly wealth, and it was a solid HOPE, but - and this is the point to note - solid and working as it was, it went, disappeared, was removed and for them, no longer existed. This is another instance we have seen of a worldly HOPE that was taken away, it was never to return. This HOPE was replaced by great anger in the masters of that girl, who immediately turned on Paul and Silas. Thank God that He will never remove our HOPE in Him, He is ever worthy of our total trust in that whatever happens to us in a worldly fashion, our HOPE in Jesus is unshakeable! Amen.

40. Acts 23 v 6: "But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, Paul cried out in the council, Men and bretheren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee, of the HOPE and resurrection of the dead I am called into question."

Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to declare that he was called into question on the matter of the HOPE (in God) and the resurrection of the dead, knowing that this would split the council and take some of the pressure off him. This HOPE of the resurrection of the dead was the belief of all Israel except for those of the Sadducees. It is still the HOPE of the Church today - all those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God, born of a virgin, crucified, buried, raised from the dead, This HOPE is what sustains us in hard times and causes us to praise and worship the living Lord God of Israel at all times in our spirit. What is the Lord showing us of this HOPE today? It is surely that the same HOPE which sustained the Jews all down the centuries, is the same HOPE which sustains us today, it is the same HOPE - unchanging, indestructible, eternal, even as is God Himself. Just as nothing can change or destroy God (Malachi 3:6), so nothing can change or destroy the eternal HOPE that He gives to them that put their faith and trust in Him. Hallelujah! Praise you Lord Jesus for the HOPE which you have set within my heart! Hallelujah! Amen.

41. Acts 24 v 15: "And have HOPE toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."

Paul is showing how little difference there is between himself and the priests in the dispute between them twelve days before. He has HOPE in God, which the priests also believed and also the common belief in the resurrection of the dead. This HOPE toward or in God is common to all who truly trust in God for all things. One could say that HOPE eternal HOPE is a "reward" for trusting in Jesus, but that would only be analogous to the truth, for we could say the same about peace of heart etc. too. At this point in time, Paul was putting his whole trust in the Messiah of Israel - Jesus - whom his adversaries couldn't accept as such. Paul knew what his own end on earth would be, yet he put his entire trust in Jesus. He knew where he was going when his time on earth ended, that was his HOPE in God. The Jews of that time, in leadership, had a HOPE in God, but they didn't have the great certainty of Paul's HOPE as to what happened after death. Praise God that we can have that same HOPE as Paul as a free gift of God through salvation through His Son Jesus! Hallelujah!

42. Acts v 6: "And now I stand and am judged for the **HOPE** of the promise made of God to our fathers,"

We see here that our **HOPE** is not new, it is not just many centuries old, but well into many millenia old! Paul is referring to the fathers having the promise made to them, and I take this to mean Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, which makes it best part of four millennium old. This gives greater credence to our **HOPE** being everlasting **HOPE** since it has now been a promise from God for 4,000 years (or more). The Jews had held to this promised **HOPE** for around 2,000 years at this point in Scripture and Paul was declaring before King Agrippa that he was being persecuted by the Jews (the leaders of the Jews to be more precise) for holding to and proclaiming the self same promise of **HOPE** from God. Lord Jesus, thank you that you offered that same promise of **HOPE** to me and to many others and that I accept your offer through salvation. If I am ever called upon to be judged for holding to this **HOPE**, I know that the same **HOPE** will hold and strengthen me in that persecution, but I am not looking for that persecution Lord! When I look at the world as it is today and see the numbers being killed just for being Christians in the Islamic world - in Pakistan, in Azerbaijan, in Saudi Arabia, in Iran and in Sudan to name but a few, I know that this persecution is certainly coming soon. In Brussels, there are now more mosques than churches, in Great Britain, we are rapidly approaching that state! Lord, help me to pray against these things. Amen.

43. Acts 26 v 7: "To which promise our twelve tribes earnestly serving God day and night, **HOPE** to come. For which **HOPE**'s sake king Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews."

Paul was being persecuted for holding on to and proclaiming the same **HOPE** that the Jewish leaders should have been proclaiming. The Jewish leaders, very much like many of our own in the Church today, are much more concerned with maintaining doctrines and traditions, which are in themselves worthless, instead of loudly proclaiming the **HOPE** and the Good News of Salvation. Just as the leaders of today don't want to know that they are on the wrong track, so too the leaders of the Jews didn't want to know that from Paul. They, then and today, are totally convinced that they are on the right track and who was this to tell them that they hadn't quite got it right. The eternal **HOPE** of God is that we shall go to spend eternity with Him as His sons, to worship and praise Him for ever and nothing done to us in the flesh, even killing us, can take away that **HOPE**. Hallelujah! Amen.

44. Acts 27 v 20: "And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay upon us, all **HOPE** that we should be saved was then taken away."

276 people (v37) were aboard this ship, so it was quite a big one. By this stage, they had been in the storm for some (many) days and such was the force of the storm that they had given up all **HOPE** that they should reach a port safely, Paul having warned them not to leave Safe Havens in the first place! These people thought that not only had the end of the ship come, but that if the ship sank, then there was no **HOPE** for them because of the storm - so violent was it that no-one could survive if not on a ship. Now this **HOPE** was a worldly **HOPE** and would not come to pass which they knew (which is why it was "taken away"). However, Paul was now able to offer them a much more solid **HOPE** - that the ship would be lost, but not one person would be injured even, much less die, since they were to be cast away upon an island which we later read

was Melita (Malta). So, their position was **HOPE**less in worldly terms and God gave them His **HOPE** through Paul. We do not read if or how many came to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour as a result of these happenings, but we do know that the **HOPE** that God gives is wholly trustworthy as is shown in this whole passage. Not all on board believed Paul as we see in vv29-32, but even they were brought safely to land. Isn't God's mercy and grace wonderful! One wonders if these people were eventually saved. Thank you Lord Jesus for your grace and mercy towards each of us, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you!

45. Acts 28 v 20: "For this cause, therefore, have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you, because for the **HOPE** of Israel I am bound with this chain."

"The **HOPE** of Israel." What is this "**HOPE** of Israel?" Nothing less than the Messiah of Israel (whom we now know to be Jesus), the Saviour of Israel, the one who will put Israel back on the map, so to speak (and so He did 1948!). The Jews are looking forward to or **HOP**ing for there Messiah to come for what they think is His first coming, but we know that it will be His second coming. Hallelujah! This **HOPE** of Israel had been held for many centuries at this time (back almost to the time of Abraham), and it is very sad that those who don't believe, having failed to recognise the first coming of their Messiah, even today, though they will recognise Him at His second coming. This **HOPE** is an eternal **HOPE** once again, from God, and Paul had been persecuted by the Jewish leaders wherever he went for proclaiming that **HOPE** and had called together the Jewish leaders in Rome to proclaim that **HOPE** again. - some believed and some didn't as with everywhere he went v24. Thank God that he sent Paul and others Jews to us Gentiles as well, so that we too could believe. Hallelujah! Amen.

46. Romans 5 v 4: "And patience, experience; and experience, **HOPE**;"

Experience produces **HOPE** is what it says part way down this chain from "tribulations" to "not being ashamed." So what experience is this that produces (from the context, eternal) **HOPE**? Why surely it is all the experience of a loving God working in our lives in so many ways starting with salvation and on through baptism with the Holy Spirit, healings, answered prayers, prophecies, words of knowledge and all the other manifestations of the love of God in our own lives. If one is truly born again, then one must have had most, if not all of these manifestations of the love of God and many more in one's own life experience. This passage does not say or even imply that one cannot have **HOPE** if one hasn't had all these experiences, but, certainly one cannot have this eternal **HOPE** without starting with being born again. Equally, we mustn't fall into the trap of thinking that one must have a "Damascus Road" experience to be born again. Even so, this **HOPE** is only to be held by those who are saved by the blood of Jesus. What happens eventually to God's own people, the Nation of Israel is another issue of course. Thank you Lord Jesus, King of Israel, that you have given me this eternal **HOPE** and re-inforced it with so much experience of your love and power in my life, all praise and glory and honour is due to your name - Jesus! Amen.

47. Romans 5 v 5: "And **HOPE** makes not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us."

"**HOPE** makes not ashamed?" Ashamed of what? Ashamed of God and His love, mercy and grace towards us; ashamed to confess Jesus as Lord; ashamed of being a Christian. **HOPE**, that eternal **HOPE** which is a promise from Jesus of eternal life with Him to follow death and the Judgement, far from making us ashamed of these things, makes us proud of them, willing to share Jesus and the forgiveness of our sins and of salvation through His blood shed at Calvary. If this is so, I ask myself - why do I clam up when someone starts to take the mickey out of me for my beliefs? God knows the answer to that. I must confess my actions (or in-actions) to Him and claim the forgiveness which He so freely offers through that blood of Jesus, and make a new start in the **HOPE** that He has given me. There is no other way but this confession and starting again (which is repentance). Thank you Lord Jesus, that such is the **HOPE** that you have given me, that I can always confess and repent for a new beginning, being careful that I do not move into licence of course! Hallelujah!

48. Romans 8 v 24: "For we are saved by **HOPE**. But **HOPE** that is seen is not **HOPE**; for what a man sees, why does he yet **HOPE** for?"

"For we are saved by **HOPE**?" Now hang on a moment - we've been seeing that we have **HOPE** because we are saved, so what is this salvation by **HOPE**? Our eternal **HOPE** gives direction in our lives, we are headed to an eternal life with Jesus as part of His bride, to praise and worship and love Him in all Spirit and Truth for all eternity. So, we are saved from an aimless life, wandering, searching for we know not what, yet knowing that something is missing in our lives (which we now know to be God Himself) yet unable in our own strength to recognise what is missing much less being able to find it. Unwilling to acknowledge that the missing part is God, Yet He in His infinite grace and mercy reached out to each and every one of us to offer us that eternal **HOPE** which would fill that emptiness in our lives. Thank God for Jesus! Without Him we should for ever be wandering looking for **HOPE**. Thank you Father God, thank you Holy Spirit, thank you Jesus for the **HOPE** which you have given me.

49. Romans 15 v 4: "For whatever things were written in earlier times were written for our learning, that we , through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have **HOPE**."

All things in what we now call the Old Testament, which were the only Scripture when the Gospels, Acts, letters and Revelation were being written (and indeed for many years afterwards), pointed towards the Messiah of Israel whom we now know to be Jesus. Since we now have the **HOPE** of eternal life through faith in Jesus, then this is what this verse means: "everything in the Old Testament was written for us to learn about what was (and is) to happen, as God ordained, and that we should see Jesus our **HOPE**." Jesus is the Word (Scriptures) made flesh (John 1:14), living, walking, talking, dying, buried and raised to life again on the third day - the Son of God our Salvation. This is our faith, our **HOPE** for all to accept and so obtain the **HOPE** of eternal life. Hallelujah! It is too simple for our intellect for many, but it is so! Praise you Jesus, Lord God of Israel. Amen.

50. Romans 15 v 13: "Now the God of **HOPE** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **HOPE**, through the power of the Holy Spirit."

"The God of **HOPE**," what joy and peace there is in knowing (believing) that! It is the wish of this our God of **HOPE**, that we should abound in **HOPE** and that He sent the Holy Spirit to us to give us the power to know that **HOPE**. Praise God that I know that joy and peace and the **HOPE** that we see today produces them. Hallelujah. As Paul said (Acts 26:29), would to God that all men should know these things, this **HOPE**. We see today that this **HOPE** does indeed come from God, since this verse tells us that He is "the God of **HOPE**," and since God is eternal then the **HOPE** referred to here is also eternal. The second part of the verse shows too that it is the will of God that we should have plenty of this **HOPE**, "abound in **HOPE**." It also tells us how this might come to pass for us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus left the earth to go back into Heaven to be with the Father, He told us that we shall receive that power after the Holy Spirit is come upon us (Acts 1:8) and without that power (which many believe to be the baptism in the Holy Spirit) we cannot abound in **HOPE**. Thank you Father, that not only are you the God of **HOPE**, but you send your Holy Spirit to us that we may **abound** in that **HOPE**! Amen.

51. I Corinthians 9 v 10: "Or says He it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes no doubt, this is written, that he that ploughs should plough in **HOPE**; and he that threshes in **HOPE** should be partaker of his **HOPE**."

What sort of **HOPE** does Paul mean here? From the context, he is writing of why one does things and in this case, Paul refers to why a man ploughs (a field) and, of course, the reason would be in order to be able to sow seed and **HOPE** to reap a harvest at the end to feed himself and his household. Now this sort of **HOPE** is not an eternal one, yet it is a **HOPE** in the providence of God to produce a good result for his labours (and those of the thresher too). This **HOPE** is realised after a few months and repeated each year, so it is not a straightforward worldly **HOPE** without **HOPE**. It is a form of trust in God year by year to produce the harvest. So, it is a third kind of **HOPE** which we haven't seen before in these studies, being a **HOPE** (trust) in the eternal God, yet not the **HOPE** of eternal life that we have seen before. It is a **HOPE** with a degree of certainty, not as in the worldly **HOPE** that we have seen before.

52. I Corinthians 13 v 13: "And now abides faith, **HOPE**, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

In this chapter, probably the best known definition of love, in the final verse we learn that when all else passes away, there will be left three things: faith, **HOPE** and love, and of these three we are told that the greatest of these is love; **HOPE** will remain though. This therefore defines these three as eternal, hence this **HOPE** is eternal. This verse defines then the three most important things in our lives as Christians, we hear talks and sermons on the faith and love of Christian doctrine, yet very rarely do we hear anything about **HOPE** in these days. I wonder why? It is the eternal **HOPE** of our going to be with Jesus for eternity which sustains our faith in Jesus and also enables us to love as Jesus commanded. What the Lord is showing me today is the importance of the eternal **HOPE** in our lives as Christians. It is on a par with faith and surpassed in importance only by the love of God. We don't see much today of the meaning of the word **HOPE**, but rather the importance of it for us to understand and continuously maintain it in our daily living. Thank you Lord Jesus for this revelation today, help me to walk in what you are showing me - always. Amen.

53. I Corinthians 15 v 19: "If in this life only we have **HOPE** in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

If the **HOPE** that we have in Jesus is only useful in this life and not the life hereafter, then we have no **HOPE**, less than non-believers even. That is how this verse could be paraphrased. It is only because we have this eternal **HOPE** that we are different to the rest of mankind, this **HOPE** differentiates us. We are not the most miserable of men (or women)! We have this **HOPE** in the Messiah of Israel and we are assured of it by our relationship with Jesus our saviour, hence, our **HOPE** is a certainty. "For I know whom I have believed" II Timothy 1:12 sums up our position in this eternal **HOPE**. Our **HOPE** in Jesus is eternal, it is not for this life only, then finished. O praise the Lord who is worthy of all praise and honour and glory and might and worship! Amen. Thank you Lord Jesus that Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship with you that will endure into eternity. Hallelujah!

54. II Corinthians 1 v 7: "And our **HOPE** of you is steadfast, knowing that, as you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall you be also of the consolation."

Paul is expressing his **HOPE** (belief) that the Christians at Corinth will remain steadfast in their Christian walk. Paul's **HOPE** is steadfast in this, he is completely convinced that no matter what is going on in that Church and around it, that they will continue to walk with Jesus. Paul is assuring them that whatever they may suffer as a result of holding fast to their **HOPE** in Jesus, they shall be consoled in the same way that he had himself. So we see here a **HOPE** which is not in the world and not directly in eternity, the **HOPE** that Paul held here is that he believed that the Corinthian Christians would remain true to Jesus, and in this sense, his **HOPE** was in Jesus to keep these people in His way. So, in a sense, this is an eternal **HOPE** inasmuch as it is based in Jesus. Thus we see that **HOPE** in others can be an eternal **HOPE** in addition to our own **HOPE** from salvation. This **HOPE** then is a trust in the Lord Jesus through others, that they will "perform" as expected in their Christian walk.

55. II Corinthians 3 v 12: " Seeing, then, That we have such **HOPE**, we use great plainness of speech."

We don't need to beat about the bush, wasting time and words, such is the wonder of the **HOPE** that we have, that we can come straight out with it to whomsoever we speak. We don't need to wrap it up in many words, plain language for a plain fact: our **HOPE** is eternal and is a fact - not a "maybe" of any description. Our **HOPE** is from God Himself, written in His Word (not a word of which has ever been proved anything other than absolutely correct!), and made flesh in Jesus His Son. God offers full forgiveness for our self-centred life apart from Him, and the salvation to eternal life through the blood of His Son Jesus shed for us all at Calvary. This is our **HOPE** in God! Praise God in the highest for this is no forlorn **HOPE** that maybe if we this is a **HOPE** to be embraced wholeheartedly, it is a certainty because God says so! Hallelujah! Amen.

56. II Corinthians 10 v 15: "Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours, but having **HOPE**, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,"

Paul is writing of his own **HOPE**. He has written this second letter to the Corinthian believers, in order to re-establish his apostolic authority over that Church, certain members of which had been rubbishing Paul saying, amongst other things, that he walked after the flesh. Paul was not wishing to either rest in or build upon the labours of any other man in the Gospel. His **HOPE** is that his own **HOPE** would be increased as the Corinthian believers faith (in Jesus) increased, at the same time, Paul is proclaiming his own **HOPE** to them, that this **HOPE** is the one in which to glory in the Lord Jesus. Thank you Lord Jesus that the **HOPE** we have in you is one in which we can glory in you and in you alone. Amen.

57. Galatians 5 v 5: "For we through the Spirit wait for the **HOPE** of righteousness by faith."

It is in the Spirit that we hold the eternal **HOPE** give to us by Jesus because we believe that what He promised is true and we can believe it. Our **HOPE** that Jesus gave to us is the **HOPE** (or belief) that we shall be clothed in righteousness when we go to be with the Father in Heaven. As was seen in the studies on righteousness, it is the robe of righteousness that Jesus gives to us (Isaiah 61:10) at salvation, which allows us into the presence of the Father. This is our **HOPE**, or part of it, that we shall be clothed with that robe of righteousness which is our "right of entry into Heaven." We have this "**HOPE** of righteousness" from Jesus we are told here in this verse, no-one can take it away from us at all, this **HOPE** is ours for all eternity. All praise and glory and honour to you Lord Jesus, for all eternity we shall be with you to sing your praises and to worship you. How can we ever thank you except by obedience to your Word. Hallelujah that the Holy Spirit gives us not only **HOPE** but the power to fulfil that **HOPE**! Amen.

58. Ephesians 1 v 18: "And the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the **HOPE** of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"

For the Ephesian believers, Paul had been praying that they would understand and know "the **HOPE** of his calling." There should be no uncertainty amongst us as believers either. Jesus is Himself praying the same for us that His calling of us and the **HOPE** that He has given to all true believers, of our salvation and place in Heaven with God for all eternity. There shouldn't be any doubt in our minds if we truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that our place in is assured by the word of God - Scriptures. This is our **HOPE** in Jesus. Paul does not say, in this verse, may the eyes of your understanding be enlightened, he says "the eyes of your understanding *being* enlightened." He is writing that we already have this understanding of the **HOPE** of Jesus calling, that we realise the extent and the magnitude of the meaning of this **HOPE**. Hallelujah! Thank you Lord Jesus that you have not only given me this **HOPE**, but also an understanding of what it means too. Amen.

59. Ephesians 2 v 12: "That at that time you were without Christ, be aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no **HOPE**, and without God in the world."

What time was this then when we had no **HOPE**? It was when we Gentiles did not know God (and His **HOPE**) and before we were born again, receiving the salvation of God through belief in His son Jesus. we were at that time without **HOPE** although we may not have realised it. Praise God that we are no longer aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel and no longer strangers from the Covenants of Promise, that we now have **HOPE** and God with us in the world. Hallelujah! God lives in me now with His **HOPE** (I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, Ephesians 4:6) and that can never be taken away from me, I am now with Jesus and Jesus is with me for all eternity.! This is my **HOPE** in God, all glory and honour and praises to His name - Jesus! Thank you Lord Jesus, King of Israel, that you have given me your **HOPE**. Amen.

60. Ephesians 4 v 4: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one **HOPE** of your calling;"

We "are called in one **HOPE**," so what does this mean? It means that there is only one **HOPE** in God and we are all called to the same **HOPE**. This **HOPE** is both unique and common to all believers (the called), an apparent contradiction - unique and common. Another paradox in God; like His being so great that He holds the whole universe in His hand yet He lives in me (as we saw in the previous study). This **HOPE** is unique because there is only one **HOPE** as this verse says yet it is common to all who believe that Jesus is the Son of God sent for our salvation. There is no other **HOPE** of salvation, just as in this context there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father." Just praise God that He has been so gracious and merciful to give us this **HOPE** of our salvation through the Blood and Cross of His Son Jesus. Hallelujah!

61. Colossians 1 v 5: "For the **HOPE** which is laid up for you in Heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the Gospel,"

"The **HOPE** which is laid up in Heaven," this is our **HOPE** in Jesus, the **HOPE** that we received upon our salvation by Jesus. This verse re-inforces where we are going because it tells us where our **HOPE** is kept or laid up. It is to Heaven that we are bound, as Christians, to the fulfilment of this **HOPE**, our eternal **HOPE**, our everlasting **HOPE**, the **HOPE** that along with love and faith never perishes (I Corinthians 13:13). Our **HOPE** is secure in Heaven where moths and rust cannot consume! We have this one **HOPE** which is Jesus and He is in Heaven with the Father, awaiting our arrival, to fulfil that **HOPE** that we received of Him. Hallelujah! All glory and honour and praises to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for that **HOPE** which you have laid up for me in your Heavenly home. Amen.

62. Colossians 1 v 23: "If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the **HOPE** of the Gospel, which you have heard and which was preached to every creature that is under heaven, of which, I, Paul, am made a minister."

The **HOPE** of the Gospel." The Gospel, or good news, is that there is **HOPE**. There is **HOPE** that man can be reconciled to God through the man Jesus, and this **HOPE** is imperishable as has been seen in previous studies, being eternal. In this verse, the Roman believers then and us today are warned not to lose sight (move away) from this eternal **HOPE** of the Gospel. If we lose sight of it, we shall surely sink back into the world and its' ways. We must always, therefore, be mindful of the **HOPE** that we have in Jesus, brought to each one of us by the Gospel. To do this, practice the presence of Jesus with us (for He dwells in us I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19 etc.) at all times, not just when we pray or read the Bible or sing praises and worship Him. Talk to Him as we go about our jobs, tell Him when things go right as well as when they go wrong, "look at that now, Lord, see what has happened" type of thing. Do this to yourself or out loud, that choice is yours. In this way, we can keep ourselves conscious of His presence dwelling within each of us and so keep our eyes on the **HOPE** that He has given us! Hallelujah! Amen.

63. Colossians 1 v 27: "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the **HOPE** of glory;"

Who is this "**HOPE** of glory?" It is that Jesus Christ is in each and every one who believes (I Corinthians 6:19) that Jesus is the Son of God. So what is this glory in which we

HOPE then? It is the glory of God, into which all believers will enter when we leave this mortal frame. In the meantime, this glory in which we **HOPE** (Jesus) dwells in each and every one of us believers. We could say then, that Jesus is our **HOPE** and hence we could define our **HOPE** as being Jesus Himself. This is our eternal **HOPE** which is denied the world, they are blind to this truth and cannot see it at all, it is pure folly to the world. Thank you Lord Jesus, that you have opened my eyes to see the eternal **HOPE** that I now have from you. All glory and honour and praises to you Lord Jesus - my **HOPE** of glory! Amen.

64. I Thessalonians 1 v 3: "Remembering without ceasing of you work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of **HOPE** in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father,"

"Patience of **HOPE** in our Lord Jesus." Because the **HOPE** that we hold in Jesus is a certainty, not a worldly **HOPE** of if, but, etc. we as Christians can afford to be patient and not worry about the appearances that seem to contradict our **HOPE**, nor worry about what happens to us with persecution of whatever form. We have patience of **HOPE** simply because our **HOPE** is in Jesus who is part of the Triune God who never changes (Malachi 3:6). Our **HOPE** is set in the unchangeable God, therefore our **HOPE** cannot change or be changed and this is a total certainty. We cannot be robbed of it simply because it is not in this world to pass away, but is set in Heaven, in eternity, in our Lord Jesus who is God. So, our "Patience of **HOPE** in our Lord Jesus Christ" is ours forever, so let the world do its' worst, it cannot take away our **HOPE**. Those who were persecuted beyond belief behind the "Iron Curtain for their faith in Jesus couldn't be shaken, couldn't have this eternal **HOPE** taken away from them, even during and after enduring the most terrible repression and torture. Think of the Christians literally thrown to the lions - they held on to their eternal **HOPE** right up to a horrible death - they are now in the arms of Jesus, rejoicing that they did have that "Patience of **HOPE** in our Lord Jesus." Hallelujah, such a **HOPE** is mine! Hallelujah! Amen.

65. I Thessalonians 2 v 19: "For what is our **HOPE**, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?"

"What is our **HOPE**? Our **HOPE** is Jesus and in Jesus as has been shown in these Studies, but in this context, Paul is telling the Christians in Thessalonica that the fact that they shall be in the presence of the Lord Jesus when He comes again at His second coming. In this verse, we see another aspect of **HOPE**, not what it is or where it is, but how the salvation and walking in this **HOPE** by others, causes more **HOPE** along with joy and a crown of rejoicing in others such as Paul in this instance. It is beyond the grasp of the world to see how this **HOPE** can be. This **HOPE** is unique to us who believe that Jesus is the Son of God and have accepted the salvation that He so mercifully and graciously offers to all men. Sadly, not many believe and accept so wonderful a gift of God and go through life without **HOPE**. Lord Jesus, thank you with all my being for your mercy and grace toward me and for the eternal **HOPE** that you have given me. Amen.

66. I Thessalonians 4 v 13: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning them who are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others who have no **HOPE**."

This passage, from v 13 to the end of the Chapter, explains what is a part of our eternal **HOPE** that we have, but most of the world does not. A part of our **HOPE** is that when Jesus returns in glory, those believers that have died will God raise first to meet Jesus in the air, followed by us believers who are still alive at the time, so our **HOPE** is that we shall rise into the air and clouds to be with Jesus as a part of His glory. Wonderful! We don't need to worry about dying because our **HOPE** is the same, be we dead or alive when Jesus comes again! Paul is telling us then, not to mourn for a believer who dies, mourning is for those who have no **HOPE**, be they the one who has died or one who is left. Death is final, from death there is no opportunity for salvation. we must be saved before death, because at the point of death, we lose all **HOPE** of salvation if we have not accepted it before death, unbelievers have no **HOPE**. Thank you Lord Jesus, the living Lord God of Israel, that I have accepted the salvation that you have offered to Jew and to Gentile alike - now I have eternal **HOPE**. Hallelujah!

67. I Thessalonians 5 v 8: "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and, for a helmet, the **HOPE** of salvation."

The helmet is to protect the head which is where the brains are located. This **HOPE** then, that we are to use as a helmet of protection is to enable the brain to avoid, or be protected from, the temptation to ask questions for which there are no answers on earth, only in Heaven where our eternal **HOPE** is. This helmet is out "**HOPE** of salvation." We have today in this verse, a value or definition of **HOPE**: it is our salvation. If we don't have this eternal **HOPE** and place our entire faith or trust in it, i.e. live our whole lives trusting in Jesus for this **HOPE** and everything else, then we don't have salvation. Now there is a sobering thought! I must wear this helmet, the **HOPE** of salvation at all times, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day. Help me Lord Jesus, to remember this and to constantly wear this helmet of **HOPE**. Amen.

68. II Thessalonians 2 v 16: "Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, who has loved us, and has given us everlasting consolation and good **HOPE** through grace,"

Jesus has given us "good **HOPE** through grace." Since our **HOPE** in Jesus is eternal to salvation, it must be good and this verse affirms that this **HOPE** is a good **HOPE**. What this verse does tell us is why Jesus (and God the Father) gave us this everlasting **HOPE**, because He loves us so very much (after all, He created each and every one of us to love us), and because He has so much love and so much grace, He offered to every one of us this **HOPE**. Sadly, not many have accepted it and so, not many will have the **HOPE** of eternal life to praise and to worship the Triune Lord God of Israel for all eternity, which is that to which we aspire and, because our **HOPE** is eternal, we shall do so. Hallelujah. Now the knowledge that not all have this **HOPE** is meant to inspire those of us who do have it, to go out and offer it to others in the name of Jesus. Amen.

69. I Timothy 1 v 1: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God, our saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, who is our **HOPE**,"

Here we have it, what is our **HOPE**? Jesus, Messiah of the Jews is our **HOPE**! Hallelujah, nothing and nobody less than Jesus Himself is our **HOPE**. What more could we

need? We know that Jesus is everything to us, our all in all, we have no need of more than this. We have seen that our **HOPE** is eternal, so this is the reason: because our **HOPE** is Jesus and He is eternal. What a wonderful assurance we do have. All glory and honour and praises and riches and power and blessings and wisdom and strength and to Jesus, eternal Lamb of God. Thank you Lord Jesus that with you as my **HOPE**, I have no need of anything or anybody else, thank you dear Lord.

70. Titus 2 v 13: "Looking for that blessed **HOPE**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our saviour, Jesus Christ,"

"Looking for that blessed **HOPE**." The only thing that we don't know about this **HOPE** that we hold is, when it will come. We know that it will come and we know that the time will be when we die (if Jesus doesn't return first), but none of us know when that will be. So, we are "looking for that blessed **HOPE**" all the time. Also, this **HOPE** is blessed for the reasons that it comes from God and that when we do attain that blessed **HOPE**, we shall be well and truly blessed! We shall be in the presence of Jesus, we shall be His Bride and we shall be so excited that we shall hardly be able to contain ourselves. We shall shout for joy His praises, we shall sing for joy extolling Him and blessing Him and glorifying Him. We shall have attained the **HOPE** that He has promised to each and every believer. I am quite good at NOT being excited and showing my feelings about situations, but when I attain my **HOPE** in Jesus, I know that I shall be up there with the best, letting all my feelings show, praising and worshipping that glorious Lord God of Israel for all I am worth (and I am worth much in the eyes of God! He sent His only Son to die for me 'cos He thinks so much of me!), I'll be leaping and shouting and singing my heart out for all eternity because Jesus will be there - my **HOPE** for eternity. Hallelujah! All glory and honour and praises to you Lord Jesus, King of kings, Lord of lords, eternal God. Amen.

71. Titus 3 v 7: "That, being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the **HOPE** of eternal life."

What do we learn of **HOPE** today? Firstly that it is our **HOPE** of eternal life, that it is this for which we do indeed **HOPE**. This re-inforces the fact that our **HOPE** will not fade away, it can only be an eternal **HOPE** if it is a **HOPE** of eternal life! We see that this **HOPE** then, is another form of belief or trust. In this case, it is a trust that we shall attain to eternal life. We see too again that we are made heirs (of God) by or according to this **HOPE**. We receive this **HOPE** and heirdom by being justified by the grace of Jesus (God) which makes us heirs of the Kingdom, Hallelujah! Praise you Lord Jesus and thank you for the wonderful gift you have given me, the **HOPE** of eternal life and to be an heir in your Kingdom of Heaven! Hallelujah! Amen.

72. Hebrews 3 v 6: "But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the **HOPE** firm to the end."

If "we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the **HOPE** firm to the end" for we are the house of Jesus Christ, the cause of His glory. The more we hold fast this **HOPE** and the rejoicing of it, the more we are the house of Jesus, the more we give glory and honour to Him, for the architect and builder are the ones who obtain the glory, not the house itself! So, as long as we do hold firm to our **HOPE** in Jesus, the more glory will be given to Him. We can offer Him our praises and worship and glory and so we should (!), but He will obtain even more glory by us

being obedient to Him and rejoicing in the **HOPE** of everlasting life that He has given to us. Our obedience, and our rejoicing at all times will show in our lives and lifestyle and this will make us stand out from the world (which is another reason why we must remain in the world and not separate ourselves from it!) and thus will Jesus be glorified even in the world as well as in Heaven. Hallelujah! I can contribute to the glory of Jesus! Amen.

73. Hebrews 6 v 11: "And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of **HOPE** to the end;"

The Lord Jesus is saying to every believer now, through the writer of this letter to the Hebrews, 'let us not keep going back to basics (V1-3) as if that were the be all and end all, but let us go on toward maturity in Jesus by looking forward to the "full assurance of **HOPE**" and all that that promises, with the result that we become more like Jesus Christ.' We must then, show "diligence to the full assurance of **HOPE** to the end" of our lives here on earth. This **HOPE** of our salvation is the central part of our Christian walk with Jesus here on the earth. It is this **HOPE** that enables us to hold up our heads and walk tall when everything (moral standards etc.) is crumbling around us. It is this **HOPE** that enables us to be in the world but not of the world. Oh Hallelujah Lord Jesus, King of Israel, that you have given us this **HOPE** to walk in all the days of our lives, to be that full assurance of **HOPE** of our salvation to the end. Amen.

74. Hebrews 6 v 18: "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the **HOPE** set before us,"

Today, we see a new meaning for **HOPE**, that it is a refuge upon which we can lay hold. When the world seeks to overwhelm us, we can lay hold anew upon the **HOPE** of salvation to eternal life which was offered to each and every one of us. This **HOPE** then, is a stronghold to which Jesus Himself helps us to hold tight. His hands are over ours as we hold on, strengthening our grip on this **HOPE**. It is like a rock in the sea where the waves may even wash over the rock and us, as long as we hold tight to the rock (of our salvation) we may be saved. Hallelujah! As I sit here on the balcony of our holiday apartment, I can see the waves of the Mediterranean Sea washing over some rocks near the seashore and I just praise God for all the wonders of His creation and am reminded of the Scripture which I can't find: 'What is man that you (God) are mindful of Him?' One of the Psalms I think. Such is the love of God for us, that He made all of creation for us, knowing how wrong we would go, yet He planned from the beginning to send His only Son to die for our wrongs, to be dead, buried and raised again to reconcile each of us that will accept it, reconciliation to Himself. This is a very humbling thing to realise! Amen.

75. Hebrews 6 v 19: "Which **HOPE** is an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil,"

Our **HOPE** is an anchor of the soul this says. So what is an anchor? An anchor is cast out by a ship which affixes itself to the sea bed and "locks" the ship in place, such that it cannot stray from that point. The ship is, of course, free to swing or move around the anchor, but it cannot move away from it. Our **HOPE** then, is something which holds us fast to one point - Jesus - but allows us to swing about that saviour of our soul, yet He is always the centre point of our

movement and, as in the case of the ship, we are always pointing at the anchor - Jesus, our **HOPE** for eternity. So, our **HOPE**, by being an anchor of our souls, keeps Jesus in front of us at all times, we constantly point to Jesus in our lives, just as a ship swinging about its' anchor always points to that anchor. Hallelujah, we have Jesus and the **HOPE** of eternal life that He has given to us as the anchor of our lives, help us Lord that our lifestyle shall always point others to Jesus. Amen.

76. Hebrews 7 v 19: "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better **HOPE** did, by which we draw near to God."

In this verse we see that whilst the "law made nothing perfect," our **HOPE**, which is a better **HOPE**, does make us perfect. So having received our eternal **HOPE** from Jesus through salvation, we are made perfect in God's eyes, something which could never happen under the law! We are made perfect in God's eyes when we receive the **HOPE** of Jesus because from that point on, Jesus dwells in each of us (I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19) and when the Father God looks down upon us, He sees Jesus, not what we were. Hence, "by which we draw near to God." Hallelujah! When we receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we receive Him into our lives to start a process of perfection through the **HOPE** of eternal life which He gave us, which ongoing process will bring us into the presence of God Himself at the end of our lives. We see also that the implication is that before Jesus came to live and die and be buried as a man, then raised to life as God; that the law was the only **HOPE** available to mankind. Jesus brought us a "better **HOPE**." Hallelujah! Amen. Thank you Lord Jesus.

77. I Peter 1 v 3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again to living **HOPE** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

"A living **HOPE**," Jesus Himself is our **HOPE** and He is certainly living - yesterday, today and forever He is alive. We have previously seen that our **HOPE** is an eternal **HOPE** that will last for ever, that it is founded (built) on the living rock (of ages) which is Jesus Himself. Now rocks are sometimes called living rocks, but they will pass away - "all things pass away, behold I make all thing new (I can't find the reference), only those who are alive to God will "survive" the destruction to come at the end of time. Peter goes on to talk about "you also, as living stones, are built up" in I Peter 2:5, because these stones which are alive, shall be built up upon the living rock of Jesus Himself who is the foundation of our **HOPE**! Hallelujah! Our **HOPE** is alive!

78. I Peter 1 v 21: "Who by Him do believe in God, who raised Him up from the dead and gave Him glory, that your faith and **HOPE** might be in God,"

Our **HOPE** in Jesus, then, is a **HOPE** in God Himself because it is He who authorised Jesus to give us **HOPE**. God (the Father) did this by raising Jesus up from the dead and giving Him glory. The reason God did this is clear from the last part of this verse, "that your (yours and mine) faith and **HOPE** might be in God." This, as the beginning of the verse says, is for those who believe in God by (faith in) Jesus. What the context of this verse is saying is that all these were done in order that we, individually, might come to the place where we have our faith and **HOPE** in God. As we know, it is not God's desire that any should perish, and that as a result of

God giving each of us free will, many will perish though, but God does everything to try to bring us to that place where "your faith and **HOPE** might be in God." What fantastic love He has for each of us! Thank you that you pour that love and **HOPE** down upon me. Amen.

79. I Peter 3 v 15: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the **HOPE** that is in you, with meekness and fear,"

We are to be ready always to answer someone's question about the **HOPE** that is in us with meekness (remember Moses was the meekest man on earth Numbers 12:3) and fear. The implication here, of course, is that our lifestyle should be such (different from the "world") that it provokes questions in the minds of the "world" as to what is different about us. The fact that we might go to church, is only a small part of that lifestyle. If it isn't different, there won't be any questions about **HOPE** (Jesus) that is in us, and again, other questions are begged too about any **HOPE** being in us at all! Lord Jesus, O that your **HOPE** should shine out of my life with such a brilliance that it generates questions in the mind of others, I confess that normally I just merge with "the world" and am indistinguishable from it. Help me dear Lord Jesus, to so light my light (**HOPE**) shine before men that you might be glorified in and through me. Amen.

80. I John 3 v 3: "And every man that has this **HOPE** in him purifies himself even as He is pure."

A new aspect of **HOPE** we see today: **HOPE** purifies the one holding that **HOPE**. This must be our eternal **HOPE** because it refers to God Himself having the same purity. Now it actually says that the man that has this **HOPE** in him purifies himself, so the **HOPE** itself doesn't do the purifying, but the man does the purifying as a result of having that **HOPE** within himself. The unregenerate man is hardly likely to purify himself, and even if he tried, he would not succeed because we cannot be saved or even purify ourselves by works (by our own efforts), which is what this would be. We are saved by the grace of God alone and He gives us this eternal **HOPE** in and through His Son Jesus. Thank you Lord Jesus for the **HOPE** which you have set within me, and help me to purify myself before you in your way. Amen.

81. Job 6 v 11: "What is my strength, that I should **HOPE**? And what is my end, that I should prolong my life?"

If I rely upon myself, my own strength, my own resources, my own capabilities, what **HOPE** have I? I have none for eternity. I might be able to do some things in my own strength, but, ultimately, I have nothing in the way of **HOPE** for eternity. Not only this, to do things in my own strength, resources, capabilities etc. is independence from God which is original sin and will directly deny me (us) any **HOPE** for eternity! These are things from which I must repent. Job knew that on his own he had no **HOPE** for eternity, that ultimately, he was totally dependant upon God for that **HOPE**, he also knew in his heart that with his situation, that God had him "up against the buffers" and there was absolutely nothing he could do about it. Job knew that his only **HOPE** was God. This too is our own position today, whether we realise it (as believers) or not (as unbelievers). We have to come to that place where we are in a position of total reliance upon the God of our **HOPE**. Help me Lord Jesus, in your mercy, to learn quickly and easily to live minute by minute in complete trust in you, the Lord God of Israel, my only **HOPE**. Amen.

82. Psalm 22 v 9: "But you are He that took me out of the womb; you did make me **HOPE** upon my mother's breasts."

"You" in this passage is, of course, the living Lord God of Israel. He it is who gave **HOPE** to David, eternal **HOPE**, right from the time of his birth. David had this eternal **HOPE** of salvation from his enemies and eventually to be safe in the arms of God in Heaven, as a result of his own walk with God throughout most of his life on earth, and his complete trust in the Lord. There is no reason at all that we shouldn't each have the same trust and walk in the Lord as did David, but speaking for myself, I am so compromised in so many areas that I am shackled to my "old life." I must repent of this in each and every area, and let the **HOPE** that I hold range free in my life to bring me to that place of freedom from my "old life" and to walk only in "the way" as it was called. Help me Lord Jesus, to set free the **HOPE** within me, that you might be glorified in and through me. Amen.

83. Psalm 31 v 24: "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you that **HOPE** in the Lord."

What an encouragement to keep hold of our **HOPE** in the Lord Jesus! A result of this **HOPE** is what we see in this verse today. David, when he wrote this Psalm was obviously beset with major problems, not the least of which was the threats to his well-being, yet he finished the Psalm with the words of this verse. I certainly have never been in any situation such as David found himself and I doubt if anyone else reading these words has either, so I have to be encouraged by David's words here, as one who has "**HOPE** in the Lord," to know that the Lord Jesus will strengthen my heart should I find myself oppressed in any way. This, in itself, is a great encouragement to know, that as long as I hold firm to the **HOPE** that I have in Jesus, He will be with me to "see me through" the troubles I may encounter. Hallelujah! How can anyone be discouraged after reading this Psalm. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen! Amen!

84. Psalm 33 v 18: "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear Him, upon those who **HOPE** in His mercy,"

Fear the Lord? Yes, a reverential fear, not a fear of "what punishment He will inflict upon us now." A fear of not wanting to go against Him because of our love for Jesus. Our "**HOPE** in His mercy," is another aspect of **HOPE**, our eternal **HOPE** is for salvation through the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus. It is hard for us today to really comprehend what it means to call Jesus - Lord, for it is alien for us to submit to His Lordship. Yet this we must do in spite of all the emphasis today on His love to us, turning Jesus into something less than God in our lives by treating Him as an earthly spouse to love in an earthly way. we should be treating Him as Lord of our lives, giving place in our lives to Him at ALL times, not just at church and housegroup or discipleship group and in our quiet times. I (we) must change our lifestyle to allow Jesus to have that Lordship in my (our) life totally! I must confess that He is not Lord of every area of my life, yet I call Him my Lord and Saviour, this HAS to change! Help me Lord Jesus, to submit every area of my life to your Lordship and thank you for your mercy in which I **HOPE**, until I reach this full submission to you. Amen.

85. Psalm 147 v 11: "The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who **HOPE** in His mercy."

Fear the Lord, the Psalmist says. So what is this fear of the Lord, from the context it is obviously by those who love the Lord God of Israel who have this fear (and **HOPE** in His mercy), and not the unbelievers? We read in I John 4:18 that perfect love casts out fear, so this appears to contradict somehow. It is in human nature to fear a power greater than our selves and Jesus certainly is that! This fear in our verse today is a reverence, an awe of Jesus, and this we should have, but we see that Jesus takes pleasure in us whilst we have this awe and reverence of Him, trusting (**HOPEing**) in His mercy. Whilst we hold on to our **HOPE** in Jesus, His mercy and love and pleasure in us will continue. Thank you Lord Jesus that we can hold on to our **HOPE** in your mercy and know from this verse that this allows you to take pleasure in each of us! Hallelujah!

86. Psalm 33 v 22: "Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according to as we **HOPE** in you."

Part of our eternal **HOPE** of salvation is that it is through the mercy of the Lord Jesus that we have this **HOPE** at all. Yet David here asks of the Lord, mercy because he has **HOPE** in the Lord God of Israel. This just shows how much we are favoured by the Lord Jesus, because king David had only the words of others (the prophets) was inclined to have mercy and give him **HOPE** (he also had his own experiences of the mercies of God throughout his life, of course). we, by comparison, can look to God Himself as a man in Jesus, who came, born of a virgin, lived, taught, was killed by men, buried, raised by God on the third day, raised up to Heaven and gave us individually His Holy Spirit to live and to dwell within each one of us. We have so much more than the saints of the Old Testament times to make it easier for us to believe, yet, speaking for myself (I'm sure I'm not alone in this), I abuse this privilege, I don't hold Jesus to be Lord of my life most of the time, I go my own sweet way. Thank God that I am forgiven, that there isn't a sin of mine (or anyone else) for which Jesus didn't die and forgive. O what a glorious **HOPE** I have, a **HOPE** that isn't taken away because I forget Jesus is my Lord for some time. In His mercy, I still have **HOPE, HOPE** of my salvation! Hallelujah! O, it is so true that song - "I'm forgiven, I'm forgiven!" Hallelujah for such mercy and grace poured upon me. Amen.

87. Psalm 38 v 15: "For in you, O Lord, do I **HOPE**; you will hear, O Lord my God."

What a wonderfully comforting statement, let me write it again. "For in you, O Lord, do I **HOPE**; you will hear, O Lord my God!" Since I **HOPE** in you Lord Jesus, I know that you **WILL** hear me - Lord Jesus, Lord of Lords, King of kings, living loving Lord God of Israel, full of mercy and grace, my **HOPE** of salvation. We see here today in this verse, a result of this eternal **HOPE**, that Jesus will hear us when we cry to Him. This whole Psalm is a great comfort to all of us who realise truly what we are like and the **HOPE** that Jesus has given to us, yet, surely, this verse before us is the greatest and most comforting part of it. As a result of our placing our **HOPE**, our trust in Jesus, we now know that Jesus will definitely hear us. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! HALLELUJAH! Amen.

88. Psalm 42 v 5: "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted in me? **HOPE** you in God; for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance."

Here, the Psalmist is depressed, everything is against him, he is feeling quite paranoid really, then he remembers and instructs his own soul to remember that his soul **HOPEs** in God and that this **HOPE** will bring him into the place where he will again praise God for all that God has given him, including even the knowledge of the presence of God ("the help of His countenance."). What this means is simply this: if I feel depressed or oppressed, then I must remember the eternal **HOPE** that Jesus has given me and set within my very soul. This **HOPE** isn't some vague talisman of good luck like some who put their trust in a Rabbit's foot! It is a **HOPE** for which my faith in Jesus is the substance of this **HOPE** (Hebrews 11:1), it is solid, dependable, unlike any other thing in or on the earth, it is a **HOPE** from God Himself. O thank you Lord God of Israel, for sending your Son Jesus for Him to give me this eternal **HOPE** which is like no other. Amen.

89. Psalm 43 v 5: "Why are you cast down. O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? **HOPE** in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

If I am feeling low, fed up, paranoid or miserable, here in this verse is the cure - "**HOPE** in God!" If I do remember this **HOPE** that I have in God, then my soul, whatever its state, will start to remember to praise God, who is the one who puts the smile on my face. Just as a dog becomes excited when "walkies" are imminent, so shall my soul become excited when I remember the **HOPE** that Jesus has given to me, that eternal **HOPE** that no-one can take away. This **HOPE** may go "to the back of my mind" from time to time, but when I remember it, it excites my soul as can nothing else. This remembrance brings me to the place of praising my God who has given me this **HOPE!** Hallelujah! Amen. Hallelujah! Amen. I must allow my soul to become excited, just because I'm English, it doesn't mean that I have to suppress it at all! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Shout it from the housetops! Amen.

90. Psalm 71 v 14: "But I will **HOPE** continually, and will yet praise you more and more."

Once again we see praise and **HOPE** together and as in previous study verses, **HOPE** come first in the verse or passage and praise follows. So, we may conclude that the **HOPE** that is given to us by God, that eternal **HOPE** of salvation given to us Gentiles by that Jew - Jesus, when we think upon that **HOPE**, causes us to thank and praise Him to whom we owe our eternal security, our place in Heaven. This **HOPE** will bring us to the place (Heaven) where there will be non-stop praise and worship of the Lord God of Israel, heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus, saviour and the Holy spirit, comforter, by all who are with Him in Heaven. Our time here on earth is a time of practice and preparation to praise and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, when our eternal **HOPE** comes to pass. O come let us praise the Lord Jesus, Lord God of Israel, for all that He is, for the **HOPE** that He has given to us and for all the other things He has done for each of us. Amen!

91. Psalm 119 v 49: "Remember the word to you servant, upon which you have caused me to **HOPE**."

The Word of God (Scriptures) have caused me to **HOPE**. This **HOPE** is the gift of Jesus to each of us at salvation and the very knowledge of the existence of this eternal **HOPE** causes us to place our trust in the **HOPE** and in the one who gives to us this **HOPE** - Jesus. Once we realise the magnitude of the love that Jesus, God, has for each and every one of us, saved and unsaved, and of His desires for us and for fellowship with us, we cannot but accept His salvation and His Lordship in our lives (even though every one of us takes back this Lordship to ourselves much too frequently!) and put our trust in this **HOPE** of eternal life! Salvation, I suppose, comes at the point when we realise just how big is that love, then we see the **HOPE**. Hallelujah! Amen.

92. Psalm 119 v 81: "My soul faints for your salvation, but I **HOPE** in your word."

No matter what happens, even if "my soul faints for your salvation," I shall still have that "**HOPE** in your Word." The communists tried everything they knew, physical and mental torture included, to force people to give up this **HOPE** that Jesus had given to them without avail. Our **HOPE** is eternal and for the salvation of our souls to be with Jesus as part of His bride for ever and ever and ever. Once we have received this eternal **HOPE** from Jesus, there is no power on earth or in heaven that can take it away again, even if my soul faints for persecution here on earth, we will have this salvation! Satan and his demons may try all they wish, but there is absolutely nothing that he can do about this **HOPE**. He tries to persuade us that we can lose it, give it up, have the **HOPE** taken away again, but it is all lies! There is nothing he can do about it, he is defeated and we have full authority over him (although he tries to persuade us otherwise) through this **HOPE**! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.

93. Psalm 119 v 114: "You are my hiding place and my shield; I **HOPE** in your word."

What is this "Word" in which I **HOPE**? It is the Word of God, of course, in which are all the commandments for the things I must do and those that I must not do, along with all the promises and comforts He has for me. My **HOPE** (and this is an eternal **HOPE**, not a worldly one) is that God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, will do all those things which are in His Word: Salvation; my robe of righteousness; perfect me; to dwell in His presence for ever; ever singing and praising Him and so many more things. This is my **HOPE** in Jesus. It is not dependant upon any works of mine, but through the grace and mercy of God, if only I believe. I must also repent of those things which are not pleasing to Jesus and confess them to Him. I will be filled with His Holy Spirit who will enable me to do these things. This is my **HOPE** and so much more. Thank you Lord Jesus for the **HOPE** which is in your Word. Amen.

94. Psalm 130 v 5: "I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His Word do I **HOPE**."

In the Word of God, the Scriptures, is written all the **HOPE** that is offered by Jesus to us all. It is in the Word of God that we dwell, examining it to find all the treasures that are held therein. Every day, we look into these Scriptures - how marvellous it is when we find some completely new treasure that we had not noticed before however many times we may have read

the passage! Our **HOPE** is all written out in His Word, it gives guidance to every moment of our lives (if we let it) and is thoroughly up to date. Some may wish to dispute that statement, but in moral terms certainly it is indisputable. This Word of God is itself our **HOPE** Hallelujah! All glory and honour and praises to you Lord Jesus! Amen. Thank you for your word and all this **HOPE** that it brings to us. Amen.

95. Psalm 130 v 7: "Let Israel **HOPE** in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plenteous redemption."

" Let Israel **HOPE** in the Lord!" O Lord Jesus, when will your own people Israel turn back to you to **HOPE** in you? Lord Jesus that they shall come to find your mercy toward them and the plenteous redemption that awaits them. Israel, as we can see for ourselves, has largely abandoned their **HOPE** in the Lord God of Israel, as a nation. Praise the Lord that the **HOPE** hasn't abandoned them, for the **HOPE** for them is the Lord God of Israel in whom we also **HOPE**. We can see today, therefore, that our **HOPE** in Jesus which is their **HOPE** also, doesn't depend upon us or them, but is dependent upon that same Lord God of Israel who is eternal and unchanging (Malachi 3:6) and will never abandon us, even if we turn away from Him. O thank you Lord Jesus, that you are ever waiting there with your arms open wide, for me, us, and for your own people Israel. O Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.

96. Psalm 131 v 3: "Let Israel **HOPE** in the Lord from henceforth and for ever."

Amen! "Let Israel **HOPE** in the Lord for ever!" **HOPE** in this context could be interchanged with the word 'trust' or 'have faith' in the Lord their God, as may be seen by reading the verse before us. We know from this series of studies in **HOPE** that this is true. We look forward to the time when the Lord will turn His attention (not that He has ever ceased to watch over that stiff necked people) to dealing once again with His own people Israel. We know to our cost that it will be when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (Romans 11:25), and that will be the point at which the Lord Jesus will know that all the Gentiles who will accept the **HOPE** that He offers, will have been gathered in - there will be no more evangelising of the Gentiles from that point! This fact should make it all the more urgent for each of us to tell our family (ooh err!), friends, neighbours and work mates about Jesus and His salvation from eternal damnation. Let them all know about the mercy and grace of our God and the eternal **HOPE** which he so freely offers! Amen.

97. Isaiah 38 v 18: "For hell cannot praise you, death cannot celebrate you; they that go down into the pit cannot **HOPE** for your truth."

As one goes down into the pit of hell, at that point and that point alone shall they that go down there realise that it is too late, and they cannot have any **HOPE** any longer! What a terrible thing for those who have rejected Jesus and the **HOPE** of salvation that He has offered to them. They will at this point of going down into the pit, realise the truth of the situation in which they are. They will be totally irredeemable and "cannot **HOPE** for your truth" Lord Jesus. If I am filled with **HOPE** and with the love of God as I profess, why am I not out telling others about this situation, why am I silent at work, why am I not shouting aloud the love of Jesus and the **HOPE**

of salvation that He so freely offers to all? Why Lord, do I sit smugly here at home or in my job? Lord, why? Help me Lord Jesus, fill me with your love that I may tell others of your **HOPE**. Amen. Encourage me Lord Jesus. Amen.

98. Lamentations 3 v 24: "The Lord is my portion, says my soul; therefore will I **HOPE** in Him."

"The Lord is all that I have" is the N.E.B. translation of the first part of this verse, "Therefore will I **HOPE** in Him." I have nobody else in whom I can place my trust, would be another way of putting it. There is no-one else who is worthy of my trust or **HOPE**. I myself will let down anyone who puts their **HOPE** in me, sooner or later it must happen because I am only human. Only the divine living Lord God of Israel can be trusted forever and ever and ever. He will never, nor could ever let me down if I place my **HOPE** in Him. Jesus is my Lord and saviour. He is my total **HOPE** in this life and on into eternity. There is no-one else for me to place my **HOPE** into, no-one else I could trust totally, Jesus is all that I have, therefore will I **HOPE** in Him. I can do no more. Hallelujah! You alone are to be trusted Lord. You "are new every morning, great is your faithfulness" it says in v23. Hallelujah! Amen!

99. Lamentations 3 v 26: "It is good that a man should both **HOPE** and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

Amen! It is only because we have this **HOPE** of the salvation of the Lord that we can quietly wait for the Lord. It is difficult to remember, very often, that there is nothing that we can do that the Lord Jesus isn't quite capable of doing Himself (except of course, for us to be obedient to Him), so we must learn to wait quietly for this **HOPE** to be fulfilled. Here in this verse today, we are told that this is a good thing to do, to "both **HOPE** and quietly wait," but normally we consider that we must rush around doing this, that and the other '*for the Lord*' when He didn't tell us at all. Of course, when Jesus does tell us to do something, then we must obey! When He hasn't told us to do something specifically, then, as this verse commands us, we "should both **HOPE** and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord," because "it is good that a man should." Dear Lord Jesus, help me to stop rushing about doing what I think you want me to do '*for you*,' when all you want is for me to "both **HOPE** and quietly wait the Lord." Amen.

100. Ezekiel 13 v 6: "They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The Lord says. And the Lord has not sent them; and they have made others to **HOPE** that they would confirm the word."

"And they have made others to **HOPE** that they would confirm the word" with signs and wonders, of course. Moses had warned Israel about false prophets, that if one should arise in Israel (or in the Church), then he or she is to be put to death. Now these false prophets who had arisen in Israel in the time of Ezekiel were prophesying against God, to turn the hearts of the people from the living Lord God of Israel, to a false **HOPE** in a false god. It is made clear in Deuteronomy 13:1-5 that some wonders and signs will follow some of these false prophets to add to their credibility. They are sent to test the believers and their discernment of spirits, whether or not they are really sent from God and proclaiming His **HOPE** and not a false **HOPE** from a false god or gods. O dear Lord Jesus, we need you every moment of every day, to know when you are

speaking to us, and to have you confirm your word of our salvation, which only you can give. Amen.

101. Luke 6 v 34: "And if you lend to them of whom you **HOPE** to receive, what thanks have you? For sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again."

What sort of **HOPE** is this? It is one where one lends to someone and expect the item to be returned as one's due. Our Heavenly eternal **HOPE** is not our due in any way, shape or form, it is the pure grace of God which gives us this **HOPE** of salvation. So the **HOPE** in this verse is not an eternal **HOPE** at all, it is one which we have by our own works - lending something to someone. It can only be an earthly or human **HOPE**, not a Godly **HOPE**. We are no different from non-Christians, sinners, if we lend only to expect to have returned. Our security is in Jesus, therefore we look to Him. If we lend and the item is not returned, praise the Lord. If we lend and the item is returned, praise the Lord even more. As Christians, Jesus is our **HOPE**, we have no need to **HOPE** for a return. That said, we are still called to be good stewards of that which the Lord has given us. Hallelujah! Thank you Lord Jesus, that you have reminded me that you are my security, my eternal **HOPE**.

102. Acts 26 v 7: "Unto which promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God day and night, **HOPE** to come. For which **HOPE**'s sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews."

HOPE is twice mentioned in this verse, but examination shows that in both cases, it is the same **HOPE**. Paul is telling King Agrippa that this **HOPE** was held by the twelve tribes of Israel, seeing this **HOPE** as a promise, given them by God many many years before. So, this **HOPE** is eternal and is of God or from God. It stood from before Jesus came and it is a **HOPE** for which the authorities of the Jews were accusing Paul - the very reason for which Paul stood before King Agrippa at that time. So, whilst this is our **HOPE**, this same eternal **HOPE** to which Paul was referring, we see today, that this **HOPE** is no guarantee for good things to happen to us on this earth! For this our **HOPE** from Jesus, we may find ourselves persecuted, insulted, wrongly accused, tortured, even put to death; even as many have been behind the Iron Curtain and in Muslim countries. Thank God that the Iron Curtain and the full weight of persecution is now lifted, but we are not without the same troubles in Islamic countries such as Iran and Sudan, Pakistan and Nigeria, Uganda and Syria, and many many others to a greater or lesser degree, where to become or remain a Christian is simply death. All this for the **HOPE** which we in "democratic" countries hold so lightly. Help me, O dear Lord Jesus, to fully realise this **HOPE** and no longer to hold it lightly, and forgive me for so doing. Amen.

103. Romans 8 v 24: "For we are saved by **HOPE**. But **HOPE** that is seen is not **HOPE**; For what a man sees, why does he yet **HOPE** for?"

Here are clearly stated, two facts: that "we are saved by **HOPE**;" and also that if we can see that for which we **HOPE**, then that which we see is not **HOPE** at all. So, from the first one, if we do not hold the **HOPE** that Jesus gave to us, then we do not have the salvation that He offers to us through the faith of holding that **HOPE**. From the second fact, if we can see (worked out already) our **HOPE**, then, either we are in Heaven with Jesus - which plainly we are not, or that **HOPE** which we can see is not our Heavenly **HOPE** at all, but we are under a delusion. If we

can see that for which we have **HOPEd**, then we no longer **HOPE** for it because it has been realised, hence it is no longer a **HOPE** at all. Thank God for the **HOPE** that is eternal which He has given to each of us that have faith in Him. Hallelujah! Amen.

104. Romans 8 v 25: "But if we **HOPE** for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

Since we are convinced that the **HOPE** given us by Jesus, for which we wait, is a certainty and not a maybe, then we can and do wait with confidence for that **HOPE** to come to pass. We cannot see or feel this **HOPE**, but we trust the Lord Jesus to do that which He says He will do, thus we are able to exercise patience whilst we live our lives here on earth. We do not have to be anxious about it one little bit, if we trust Jesus, then we *trust* Jesus! O Hallelujah Lord Jesus, for you are so trustworthy that we can exercise patience whilst waiting for our **HOPE** in you to come to pass - our salvation, our place with you in eternity! Amen.

105. Philipians 2 v 23: "Him, therefore, I **HOPE** to send presently, as soon as I see how it will go with me."

Now what sort of **HOPE** is this? It isn't a Heavenly **HOPE**, nor yet is it a worldly **HOPE** as we have seen it before, it is a **HOPE** with a question mark. The NIV, TEV and NEB also use the word **HOPE**, so I guess it is the correct translation. This is a conditional use of the word **HOPE** - "as soon as I shall see how it will go with me." It is not a trust or faith situation, "**HOPE** to" in this context could be made to read "Him, therefore, I *may* send presently, as soon as I shall see how" and still mean virtually the same (except for introducing a personal element). This is an "if, then" use of the word, it really doesn't fall into either Heavenly or worldly categories. It is a new use of the word in these studies. Back in study number 10, the Lord revealed that **HOPE** did fall into the Heavenly category when I thought that it didn't fall into either, but today? Lord Jesus, I thought that with you, everything will fall into one of these two categories, forgive me Lord that I have tried to categorise you and that there is more than two uses of the word **HOPE** in your Word. Thank you Lord Jesus.

106. I Peter 1 v 13: "Wherefore, Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **HOPE** to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Now this **HOPE** is to be held, held "to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." This, then, can only be our eternal **HOPE** from Heaven. We have today, a little knowledge of that for which we do **HOPE** and also a glimpse of the timescale (though not specific), we **HOPE** for grace (before God) and it will come at the time that Jesus will be revealed at His second coming. I read in James 3:2 that Jesus recognises that we do stumble (do things wrong) and I just praise God that Jesus died, not just for past sins, but for *every* sin, past present and future! This is my **HOPE** then, that as long as I keep short accounts with Jesus, He has given me His **HOPE** "for the grace that is to be brought to me when Jesus comes again. O Hallelujah! Wonderful, merciful God! Thank you for this reminder of what is the **HOPE** that you have given to each of us that has "surrendered" their life to Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen!

107. Psalm 16 v 9: "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also shall rest in **HOPE**."

"My flesh also shall rest in **HOPE**." My flesh" Not my soul? Ah yes, but notice that the verse says "also" not that only my flesh "shall rest in **HOPE**." With the **HOPE** that Jesus gives me, I have rest for my whole being - not that troubles will not rise up against me. If I worry about something bad that may affect me at some future time, eventually that worry will affect my digestion and will ultimately end my sense of well-being. I must learn therefore, to submit these worries to the Lord Jesus - I am speaking to myself here, as well as to anyone else who reads these words. If I do not trust Jesus and **HOPE** in Him, then I must take the consequences, for "my flesh also shall rest in **HOPE**," His **HOPE** that He gives to me. If I don't give my worries to Jesus, or take them back again from Him, then I am not placing my **HOPE** or trust in Jesus for that area of my life. O Lord Jesus, help me to not only place my **HOPE** in you, but to leave it there too. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

108. Acts 2 v 26: "Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh shall rest in **HOPE**,"

Whilst it may seem that our bodies (or flesh) has tribulation in one or more forms which could include physical persecution, the Scripture says in this verse that "my flesh *also* shall rest in **HOPE**." The Lord is saying that "also" here which must mean 'in addition to something else.' This **HOPE** then, given to every believer by Jesus Himself, is peace of mind (John 14:27 and 16:33) and spirit, and the verse reminds us that "my flesh also *shall* rest in peace." For those in Islamic lands (Sudan, Nigeria etc.) who are being murdered because they refuse to renounce Jesus as Lord and Saviour, the only God, this rest cannot be a physical rest, unless you count death as rest. However, this verse doesn't refer to physical rest, it is "rest in **HOPE**," or trusting in the Heavenly eternal **HOPE** that Jesus gives to them and to us for our salvation and to spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus as part of His Bride. This is the **HOPE** in which our flesh shall trust or rest. Hallelujah! Thank you Lord Jesus, that no matter what happens to our body, mind or spirit, it cannot take away our salvation in Jesus! Hallelujah! Amen.

109. Romans 4 v 18: "Who against **HOPE** believed in **HOPE**, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall your seed be."

Today we have two **HOPE**s in the same verse and it is fairly obvious that they are not the same **HOPE**. The first **HOPE** is a worldly **HOPE** when Abraham **HOPE**d against the odds, in other words, a **HOPE** that was not possible in worldly terms, so his belief was against this **HOPE**. The second **HOPE**, in which Abraham believed because it was from God, in his eternal **HOPE** that we have seen to have come to pass in this instance. Abraham - one son by Hagar who became the head of a nation; one son by Sarah who became the head of the nation of Israel (God's chosen people); and by Ketura he had six more sons, each of which became the head of a nation. So the **HOPE** in which Abraham believed, led to him becoming the father of no less than eight sons and so eight nations. That is many nations, notwithstanding that, some of them produced more than one nation. Abraham received his **HOPE** from God and that was counted to him as righteousness. Lord Jesus, help me that I may hold fast to the **HOPE** that you have given to me, that it may be counted to me as your righteousness. Amen.

110. Romans 5 v 2: "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in **HOPE** of the glory of God."

Today we see one of the things for which we **HOPE**, "the glory of God." Presently we do not see the glory of God, some may feel that when they look at flowers or mountain views or ... that they see the glory of God; this is, however, not even so much as a pale shadow of the glory of God, magnificent as these things may be. What we **HOPE** for is the real glory of God, even to see it in our mortal flesh would mean death (Exodus 19:21), which we shall see on the day of Judgement. Today, we rejoice in the **HOPE** (certainty) that we shall see the glory of the living Lord God of Israel. Amen. This **HOPE** of the glory of God is only for believers - ALL people will see the glory of God on the day of Judgement, but most will not be rejoicing about it.

111. Romans 8 v 20: "For the creation was made subject to vanity, not willingly but by means of Him who has subjected the same in **HOPE**."

This is hard to understand what sort of **HOPE** is this. Who has subjected creation in **HOPE**? Is it Jesus or is it Adam? The NIV Bible doesn't have a full stop after **HOPE** in this verse, but refers this **HOPE** to being the **HOPE** of creation being liberated from the bondage to decay (corruption). This throws a completely different light on the **HOPE** in this verse. It is now obvious that it is a Heavenly **HOPE**, being one of release from bondage to corruption. This shows two things: that when Adam sinned, not only was the human race put in bondage to corruption, but that the whole of creation was too; and when Jesus comes again in glory, that not only will mankind be released from corruption (those who believe on the Lord Jesus Messiah for salvation - to eternal life, all the rest to eternal death), but that all creation too will be freed from corruption! Heaven and earth will pass away and be replaced by a new Heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). So this is why not only can mankind have **HOPE** (if they accept Jesus as Lord and saviour) but so too can all creation. Hallelujah! Lord Jesus, your plans are perfect, nothing is left out or forgotten. You have no plan B 'cos you have everything right the first time! Amen!

112. Romans 12 v 12: "Rejoicing in **HOPE**; patient in tribulation; continuing diligently in prayer;"

There are those, non-believers mostly, who contend that the Bible is full of negatives - don't do this, don't do that etc. Today, in the passage which contains our verse, there are a dozen or more positive things which we should always do. One of them is "rejoicing in **HOPE**." We saw this in the study of Romans 5:2, so, since this instruction is repeated in the same letter, it must be an important instruction to us. We have seen that our **HOPE** is given us by Jesus at salvation and that this **HOPE** is a certainty, not a 'maybe' type of **HOPE**; that for which we **HOPE** is certainly something to which we look forward with great pleasure. So, it is eminently reasonable that the Lord Jesus should exhort us to "rejoice in (our) **HOPE**." We really have no excuse for not "rejoicing in **HOPE**" if we really appreciate what is our **HOPE** that Jesus has given to us! Hallelujah! Amen.

113. Romans 15 v 13: "Now the God of **HOPE** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **HOPE**, through the power of the Holy Spirit."

We have seen in the last few studies, that we should be "rejoicing in **HOPE**." Today we see that we don't have to drum up this rejoicing or the **HOPE** itself, for God will Himself fill us "with all joy and peace" as long as we allow ourselves to be so filled. We don't have to drum it up or work at being joyful, Jesus who is "the God of **HOPE**" will fill us (not just put in a little) with ALL joy and peace - in believing. All we have to do is believe and He will do as He promises. If we believe then, we "may *abound* in **HOPE**, through the power of the Holy Spirit." So, in believing, we shall not only be rejoicing, but we shall then "abound in **HOPE**!" So the key to our eternal **HOPE** and rejoicing in that **HOPE** is simply to believe that Jesus can and will do all these things for us. Hallelujah! Amen.

114. I Corinthians 9 v 10: "Or says He it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he that ploughs should plough in **HOPE**; and he that threshes in **HOPE** should be partaker of his **HOPE**."

It is fairly obvious that all three mentions of **HOPE** in this verse, refer to the same **HOPE**. In this case, the **HOPE** is for a good harvest. This shows us that we can share a **HOPE** - **HOPE** is sharable. We can share our Heavenly **HOPE** by sharing the Gospel with others who do not acknowledge Jesus as Lord and saviour in their lives. This sharing of the Gospel may be likened to him that ploughs, the harvest is not immediately apparent; the same with the one who sows the seeds, the harvest is not yet seen; even he that cuts and binds the corn only sees the harvest partially; but he that threshes is the one who finally sees the grain which is the harvest itself. So, all the others, who may have shared the Gospel with non-Christians, share the same **HOPE** for the salvation of a given soul, each independently and maybe even unknown to each other. We each do our part in that sharing of **HOPE**, for some it may be by not uttering a word, simply by the example of their lifestyle. Others may overtly stand up to shout out the Gospel on a Bandstand (or even a Soapbox), each has a part in sharing the **HOPE** of salvation to others. Thank you Lord Jesus, that you are a God of infinite variety. Amen.

115. Titus 1 v 2: "In **HOPE** of eternal life , which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began,"

"In **HOPE** of eternal life." This IS our **HOPE**, the **HOPE** of eternal life. It is that which is as yet unseen, yet we rely upon Jesus to hold to that which He promised us. Here in the Word of God, we are reminded that God cannot lie and that He "promised (eternal life) before the world began." When Jesus came to earth as a human being, He re-iterated this promise, being Himself God (John 3:15, 17:3 etc.). It is by faith in God that we have and hold this **HOPE**. No one can take it away, it is ours for eternity. Paul himself reminds us of this in verse 1. We can hold this **HOPE** of eternal life because we can hold onto the promise made by God "who cannot lie." Praise you Lord Jesus, that you are all truth and faithfulness and that we can rely upon you totally. Amen.

116. Job 17 v 15: "And where is now my **HOPE**? As for my **HOPE**, who shall see it?"

Job, as we know from the book of Job, held fast to his **HOPE** and trust in God. Even his wife urged him to curse God and die for all the things, bad things that were happening to him. All these things happened to him because the Lord God allowed Satan to do them, in order to prove (to Satan) that whatever Satan did to Job, Job would not give up his **HOPE** (and trust) in the Lord God. Job uttered that well known phrase, "the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" in Job 1:21. In this he showed how he valued material health and wealth, his **HOPE** was not visible in these things for others to see. Job had a **HOPE** that was eternal and Satan could not take that away from him, no matter what he did. Oh Lord Jesus, that I might hold as lightly as Job, the good that you have bestowed upon me, and own it as being yours and yours alone and not mine but as a temporary loan from you; that whatever happens to me, I shall never lose hold on the **HOPE** which you have given to me - which is far more valuable than all else. Praise you Lord Jesus, that you have given me that eternal **HOPE** that no-one can take away from me! Amen.

117. Job 19 v 10: "He has destroyed me on every side, and I am gone; and my **HOPE** has He removed like a tree."

Job is saying that God has removed **HOPE** from him, yet in V25, Job is expressing his belief in God with those famous words: "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." This apparently contradicts the earlier verse about **HOPE**. So, is this **HOPE** the eternal **HOPE** expressed in V25? In V10, the **HOPE** that Job sees as having been removed is all material things, wealth, family, position etc. that he goes on to list in the following verses. This **HOPE** then is not an eternal **HOPE**, it couldn't be since it has been removed! It is an expression of all the worldly **HOPE** that had been Job's prior to this time. The Lord God had allowed Satan to inflict all this upon Job and then to remove the health which Job had previously enjoyed, yet still, as God had foreknown, Job still expressed his trust (**HOPE**) in God. We know too, that God restored all things to Job at the end. What a wonderful God we have! All praises and glory to God in the highest! Amen.

118. Job 31 v 24: "If I have made my gold my **HOPE**, or have said to the fine gold, you are my confidence;"

Job has now reached the stage of justifying himself, so say - 'why has this happened to me, I haven't done anything to deserve this!' This is, of course, the point at which he was beginning to accuse God of being unfair. We must remind ourselves that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), that none of us can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven by our own "lack of sin." God had to bring Job to this realisation later in the book. **HOPE**. Job was saying that he had never placed (misplaced!) his **HOPE** in gold, even though he had much of it, he realised that to place his **HOPE** in anything or anybody other than the living Lord God, was a complete waste of time and effort. This **HOPE** in this verse is a worldly **HOPE**, of course, and the Lord is reminding us through Job, that this **HOPE** is a misplaced **HOPE**, a false **HOPE**, a **HOPE** not to be trusted for any purpose at all, especially for our eternal future! Thank you Lord Jesus, for the things of which you have reminded me in this passage today! Amen. Let me not forget any of them, and retain my **HOPE** in you. Amen.

119. Psalm 39 v 7: "And now, Lord, what wait I for? My **HOPE** is in you."

For what else is there to wait or **HOPE** since my **HOPE** is in Jesus? Nothing else is worth even pondering, much less worth waiting for or in which to have faith or belief. David was saying, that for himself, there is nothing else to wait for since his **HOPE** is in the Lord God of Israel. This is very obviously, an eternal **HOPE**, a **HOPE** of salvation for his soul, not a material form of salvation. David didn't have a personal God as we have in Jesus, but he had a complete trust and **HOPE** in that same living Lord God of Israel who lives and reigns today as part of the triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit in whom we trust and **HOPE** today. So we see today in this verse, that our eternal **HOPE** is the same eternal **HOPE** that David held (and so many others before and after him!) many centuries before Jesus came to give life and **HOPE** to us Gentiles. Hallelujah! Praise to the Lord God of Israel, for you never change - Malachi 3:6. Israel still has the same God today, Lord, when will we see their hearts softened towards you?

120. Psalm 71 v 5: "For you are my **HOPE**, O Lord God; you are my trust from my youth."

Today we have the equating of trust with **HOPE**, and since this trust and **HOPE** is clearly in the Lord God, it can only be a Heavenly or eternal trust or **HOPE**. It is not clear who wrote this Psalm, but it is a clear witness to the faithfulness of God in His honouring of the trust and **HOPE** placed in Him, as well a plea for continued help here on earth. This verse is also a bold statement of where and in whom this trust and **HOPE** is placed. The same for all believers in the salvation of God may be said, "you are my **HOPE**, O Lord God!" We have no other **HOPE** for our salvation, after all, Jesus Himself said that "no man comes to the Father but by me" in John 14:6. What a wonderful God we have, who planned all these things even before He created the world and all that is in it, that I would have eternal **HOPE** through His only Son, Jesus. My mind cannot comprehend that the Father should plan to make us, knowing how wrong we (and especially me!) should go, plan to have His Son killed by us, all in order that we might have eternal **HOPE** in the Lord God! I don't understand it, but I do thank you Father that you have made it so and given me your **HOPE** through your Son Jesus. Hallelujah! All glory and honour and praises to you, O Lord God, for you alone are worthy! Amen.

121. Jeremiah 17 v 17: "Be not a terror to me; You are my **HOPE** in the day of evil."

My other reading to day is of the coming tribulation in Revelation. I believe (and my **HOPE** is) that the believers will go to meet Jesus in the sky immediately before the tribulation and will not go through the tribulation, returning with Jesus to reign in glory with Him when He comes back to earth for the millennium after the tribulation (please feel free to disagree, this is my belief). Jesus is "my **HOPE** in the day of evil" as it is in this present time. Life doesn't become a bed of roses if one becomes a Christian! Suddenly, one is faced with choices which were not apparent at all as a non-Christian, these choices are not at all easy to discern in many cases, as to which is evil and which is God's way. Thank God for Jesus and the **HOPE** that He has given me, that when I get it wrong, He isn't going to come down on me like a ton of bricks and say - 'right, you've had it, no more salvation for you, that is your **HOPE** gone!' I don't understand why, but Jesus isn't going to take away my **HOPE** in the day of evil! O Praise you Lord Jesus, and thank you for more than I know or understand! Amen.

122. Psalm 119 v 116: "Uphold me according to your word, that I may live; and let me not be ashamed of my **HOPE**."

"Let me not be ashamed of my **HOPE**." What is **HOPE** in this context and why should I be ashamed of it? My **HOPE** is of eternal life through my salvation in Jesus, so why should I be ashamed of it? Do I go about proclaiming the salvation of Jesus? I do not, I am sorry to say. This means that I am acting as if I were ashamed of my **HOPE** then! I am not consciously ashamed of my **HOPE**, but as I examine myself here, then I have to admit that I need to cry to Jesus: "let me not be ashamed of my **HOPE**!" Help me Lord, to overcome my fear of talking about you and your salvation, to be able to demonstrate to you that I am not ashamed of my **HOPE** in you. Amen. Bring me to my knees before you Lord Jesus, bring me willingly there. You are saying in so many ways to me that I must pray more, help me Lord Jesus, to overcome my own stubbornness in this area of my life, that I may submit it to you and so bring myself in you to be closer to proclaiming your salvation to others. Lord Jesus, you are my **HOPE**, my only eternal **HOPE**, I will not be ashamed of my **HOPE**! Amen.

123. Lamentations 3 v 18: "And I said, my strength and my **HOPE** are perished from the Lord."

This paragraph is headed, "Jeremiah shares his nations affliction." In it, Jeremiah is in anguish, feeling the pressure of that affliction from the Lord, the words of this verse are written in his despair. Certainly his (and Judah's) strength probably had gone and it would have seemed as though his (and Judah's) eternal **HOPE** had "perished from the Lord." This would seem to conflict with the eternal nature of our **HOPE** in the Lord God of Israel. However, in this verse, Jeremiah is in anguish of soul and doubting everything, including that eternal **HOPE** that his nation had shunned at that time. The **HOPE** in this verse is still that eternal **HOPE**, that imperishable **HOPE** as Jeremiah later remembered, even in this paragraph. Our **HOPE** is the same as his **HOPE**, an eternal **HOPE** in the same Lord God of Israel - Jesus. This **HOPE** will never perish, any more than Jesus will let His holy nation of Israel continue in persecution for ever and ever. Jesus will turn to deal with them and bring them back into his Kingdom. Hallelujah! Jesus will never ever leave those who love Him, nor those He calls His own. Amen! Amen! Amen!

124. Philipians 1 v 20: "According to my earnest expectation and my **HOPE**, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death."

I **HOPE**, as Paul expressed here, that there will be nothing of which I should be ashamed when I am perfected in Jesus. All my sins and wrongdoings (Oh, there are SO many of them!) shall be washed away by the precious Blood of the Lamb of God - Jesus. Thank God with all my heart that He has given me this eternal **HOPE**. I shall be able to stand before Him on that day of judgement, in and through His grace for the salvation which He offered to me and which I accepted, receiving this eternal **HOPE** through His grace! Hallelujah! Amen! Thank you Lord Jesus for this **HOPE**, this eternal **HOPE** which you have given to me. Thank you for the privilege you have given to me to study this **HOPE** in your Word, and for all that you have shown

me in your Word. All glory and honour and praises to the living Lord God of Israel - my saviour!
Amen