

Jesus, Hope of the Nations; Matthew 12:18-21

- I. Hope
 - A. Our society has completely changed the meaning of this word
 - B. “I hope I get that raise,” “I hope I get what I want for Christmas”
 - C. Merriam Webster’s
 1. To desire with expectation of obtainment
 2. To expect with confidence: trust — synonym, see expect
 3. Hope against hope: to hope without any basis for expecting fulfillment ¹ — This is what we define as hope today
 - D. To look forward to something, with implication of confidence about it coming to pass ²
 - E. This change in the definition of ‘hope’ has changed our own confidence in the return of the Savior
 - F. But we can be confident in Jesus as the Risen Savior
- II. Chosen
 - A. Matthew 12:18 (ESV); “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
 - B. God had a plan
 1. God’s plan started before He created the world
 2. Ephesians 1:3–5 (ESV); ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,
 3. God’s plan continued with Mary’s pregnancy by the Holy Spirit
 4. Then, Jesus starts His ministry and we see Isaiah’s prophecy come to life
 5. Matthew 3:16–17 (ESV); ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
 - C. Jesus fulfilled God’s plan
 1. Matthew 12:15–17 (ESV); ¹⁵ Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶ and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:
 - D. Probability
 1. The odds of you becoming president are 1 in 10,000,000
 2. The odds of you being killed by lightening are 1 in 2,000,000
 3. The odds of both happening to you are 1 in 20,000,000,000,000
 - E. Probability of Christ fulfilling prophecies
 1. Born in Bethlehem, 1 in 280,000 (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:4-6)
 2. The forerunner of Christ, 1 in 1000, (Malachi 3:1, Mark 1:2-8)
 3. Enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey, 1 in 100 (Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:4-11)
 4. Christ betrayed by a close friend, 1 in 1,000 (Psalm 41:9, Luke 22:21)
 5. The price of betrayal is 30 pieces of silver, 1 in 1,000 (Zechariah 11:12, Matthew 26:15)

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

² William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 319.

6. Those 30 pieces of silver are used to buy potter's field, 1 in 100,000 (Zechariah 11:13, Matthew 27:3-10)
 7. Christ was silent during His trial, 1 in 1,000 (Isaiah 53:7, Mark 14:60-61)
 8. Christ crucified, 1 in 10,000 (Psalm 22:16, John 19:17-18)
 9. The Christ fulfilled these 8 prophecies, 1×10^{28} or 1 in ten nonillion, or 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
 10. There are 300 prophecies written about the Messiah — Jesus fulfills them all!
- F. Based on probability alone, we can have a confident expectation (hope) that Jesus is the Messiah!

III. Risen

- A. Matthew 12:21 (ESV); and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”
- B. The empty tomb is the clincher
- C. The empty tomb is where our hope (confident expectation) is placed
- D. 1 Corinthians 15:16–19 (ESV); ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.
- E. This is (also) one of the 300 prophecies that Christ fulfills
- F. If Jesus is the Messiah — and He is — then we can be confident in His promise to cleanse us from sin
- G. If we would all put our faith, our trust, our lives in Him then imagine what our world would be like
 1. Philippians 4:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
 2. Imagine everyone behaving like the Samaritan that found the Israelite beaten and left by the side of the road in Jesus' illustration about neighbors (Luke 10:29-37)
 3. Jesus truly is the Hope of the nations!

IV. Hope

- A. We can have a confident expectation (hope) that Jesus is the Messiah
- B. We can place our trust (faith) in Him
- C. We can confidently say, “Jesus, the Hope of the nations”