



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: Waiting in & for Hope

Text: Psalm 146

Theme: Hope is found in the person and work of our Savior who came and will come again.

Teaching Notes: This psalm begins with a call to praise and hope in the Lord, noting the deficiency of human rulers who are temporary and powerless to save. The psalmist highlights God's characteristics: He is the Creator, the source of both justice and mercy. The psalm concludes by affirming that the Lord reigns forever, and calling people to praise Him in all generations.

Outline:

1. For who he's not. (vv. 3-4)

- a. He's not a false hope of salvation. (v. 3)
- b. He's not a dead-end path to follow. (v. 4)

2. For who he is. (vv. 5-6)

- a. He's the proven God of our ancestors. (v. 5).
- b. He's the Creator of everything. (v. 6)
- c. He's faithful forever. (v. 6)

3. For what he does. (vv. 7-9)

- a. He executes justice impartially. (v. 7)
- b. He feeds the hungry. (v. 7)
- c. He liberates the captives. (v. 7)
- d. He opens the eyes of the blind. (v. 8)
- e. He lifts up the crushed. (v. 8)
- f. He loves the righteous. (v. 8)
- g. He guards the immigrant. (v. 9)
- h. He sustains the widow and orphan. (v. 9)
- i. He thwarts the way of the wicked. (v. 9)

4. For who he forever will be. (v.10)

- He is God and sovereign King forever.



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. What's your favorite Advent song and why? How are its themes different than some of your favorite Christmas songs?
2. What are some things you're hoping for right now? [Your answers don't have to be serious/spiritual.]
3. What's something you're hoping in right now?
4. How are the last two questions (and your answers) different from each other? What do you notice?
5. What's something you've hoped in that proved to be a dead end or incapable of delivering the kind of "salvation" it seemed to promise?
6. Your Savior is also your Creator. What hope does that give you when you're going through hard times? What hope does that give you for the future?
7. Look at the nine things God does in verses 7-9. What stands out to you? Who – or what type of person – does he seem to be inviting to hope in him?
8. What are the top three things that contribute to your sense of hopelessness? Describe what you feel. Why do you think these things are making you feel that way? How does the Gospel hope of Advent speak to this?
9. List three things you'll do to combat hopelessness. What, specifically, will you do to relocate your hope in the Lord? [e.g. What will you read, listen to, tell yourself; who will you spend time with; how will you engage your body and mind?] Who will you share this strategy with so they can help you?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise Jesus for coming to defeat the hopelessness and helplessness of our world, giving us the confident expectation of life and salvation.
2. Confess who/what you turn to for false hope and acknowledge what these imposters are doing to you.
3. Ask God to enable you both to receive and to share his hope, so that your life overflows with a joyful confidence in God that is readily observable and contagious.