Sermon Notes – November 30, 2025 Behold– Week 1: Behold His Hope

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SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 NLT

- "²The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine."
- "⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, All Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!"
- "Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air... but only for one second without hope." Hal Lindsey

1) A Thrill of Hope

- Hope is a powerful emotion and driving force that is needed for healthy living.
- Hope (noun/verb): "desire accompanied by expectation of, or belief in fulfillment [anticipation]; someone or something on which hopes are centered; to desire with expectation and confidence; to rely on and trust."
- We are wired to be people who hope, but sometimes it's hard to have & keep hope.
- Weary world: When what we hope for does not occur; or who or what we hoped in lets us down, it can lead us to feel weary, fearful, frustrated, and hopeless. It can feel like the light and thrill of hope in our life has been blown out.
- When hope goes dark: Hopelessness in the Bible is often displayed through the image or metaphor of "darkness."
- "People who walk in darkness..." Whether due to weariness, fear, stress, failures, extended waiting, crushed dreams, being let down or feeling overlooked, many feel like they are walking in darkness.
- Hope placed in the wrong things can make a dark and hopeless season feel even darker, as it moves us further away from the One, we should be putting our hope In.
- All of us have things that we are hoping for and hoping In, but the question lies: How can we trust that hope/light will break through the darkness?

2) Hope Breaks Through

- "They saw a great light": Keeping hope in the waiting and dark seasons can be hard, but we must remember that light shines the brightest in the darkness!
- Something to hope in: Like a candle, when Immanuel invades a dark, broken, hurting, and dying world, darkness must flee There is NO CONTEST (Isa. 9:2; Jn. 1:4-5; Matt. 1:21-23; Jn. 12:46).
- Jesus came to bring salvation, hope, and light to the world, and to free us from the grip of darkness past, present, and future (Jn. 12:46; Jn 1:1-5; Isa. 7:14;9:2-7). We can place our hope in, and give what we are hoping for, to Him!

3) Finding Hope In The Darkness

- 1) GREEN isn't only for the GRINCH: Let the evergreens, and wreaths of the season remind us of God's eternal promises. His hope and promises for us will endure and prevail even in the darkest and harshest of seasons (past, present, future) [Ps.130:5].
- 2) Remember He is faithful: "The good news of Advent is not that we are faithful in our waiting, but that God is faithful in His coming." (Rich Vallodas) Isa. 9:7 states "He is zealous/enthusiastic to bring hope." He is and will always be Immanuel-God with us (Isa. 7:14).
- 3) Let Jesus' genealogy quiet our doubts: "Out of great mess comes the great Messiah. God's plans are bigger than any mess we have created or been dealt in our lives." (Rich Vallodas)
- 4) Let go of wrong placed hope: Let go of the things we lean on instead of Christ to find our strength and hope. Hope is found first IN JESUS! (Ex. Linus drops his blanket in "A Charlie Brown Christmas" after reciting Lk. 2:8-20.)