

Sunday is Here

Luke 24:5b-6a

...Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen:...

Introduction

1. Events of Easter Morning

- 1st. Some ladies had prepared spices over the Sabbath and High Sabbath so they could come and anoint the body of their Lord
 - a. They were doing this because they did not have time to prepared His body for burial after His crucifixion
 - b. Mark 16 tells us that the women were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome
 - 2nd. Imagine their surprise when they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher.
 - 3rd. I can see them standing there in perplexity when two men (angels) stood by them in shining garments:
 - 4th. They were filled with fear, so they bowed to the earth
 - 5th. These men (angels) then ask this question...Why seek ye the living among the dead?
 - 6th. Their next statement was shocking...He is not here, but is risen:
 - 7th. Then the men (angels) reminded them of Jesus' words
 - a. He taught you that He must be delivered into the hands of sinful men,
 - b. He taught you that He must be crucified,
 - c. He taught you that He would rise again on the third day
 - 8th. Then, they remembered His words, and went to tell the eleven and the rest the Good News that Jesus was alive
- #### 2. What a shocking turn of events
- #### 3. Let me today share with you some thought concerning Israel, and mankind
- a. Hopelessness ruled the day before Jesus

- b. Hope appeared with Jesus
- c. Hope was lost at the death of Jesus
- d. Hope reappeared with Jesus' Resurrection

I. Hopelessness ruled the day before Jesus

A. Hope was first given in Genesis 3:15

1. Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent
 - a. Deliverance for humanity was promised in the middle of punishment being dispensed
 - b. Two thousand years went by with no deliverer, until God destroyed man by a flood, except for Noah because he walked habitually with God
 - c. Surely Noah must be the Seed of the woman that brought deliverance, and now, since, sinful man had been destroyed, things would be better
 - d. Noah was not the Promised Seed, because his father had passed the inherent sin to him, so sin began to prevail again
 - i. Noah got drunk and lay in his tent naked
 - ii. Ham saw his father in the shame of his nakedness
 - iii. In time they built the tower of Babel, with the purpose of making a name for themselves, in rebellion against God, for they intended to all stay in one place, and God had told them to scatter and repopulate the earth

Note: Sin is on the rise again as they worship the heavens instead of God who created the heavens

2. Two thousand years had passed from Adam to the flood and there was no promised Seed, but then Abraham appears on the scene
 - a. Again, we read the promise of a Deliverer, who would deliver man from His sins

Note Genesis 12:3b...Abraham...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

- b. From that time, there was prophecy after prophecy concerning the blessing upon Abraham's descendants and blessing upon the whole world
- c. From the flood until Jesus, about two thousand more years would pass before the Seed of the woman would appear to redeem humanity, to set man free from sin

d. There would be many prophecies that would be prophecies between Abraham and Jesus, and time would continue with no Promised Seed appearing

i. Genesis 49:10 is a prophecy made by Jacob that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah, and it was fulfilled some 1400 years later with the birth of Jesus

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Note Shiloh means “He whose it is, that which belongs to him, tranquility (peace). Shiloh is a word epithet or nickname for Messiah

ii. Isaiah 7:14...Fulfilled some 700 years after the prophecy...Born of a virgin

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

iii. Micah 5:2...Fulfilled some 700 years after the prophecy...Born in Bethlehem

But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

iv. Jeremiah 23:5...Fulfilled some 600 years after the prophecy...

Descendant of David

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth

3. The world is a dark place

a. Hope has been given, but hope is delayed

b. When hope is delayed, hopelessness begins to cover us, to rule

c. By the time the Angel speaks to Zacharias in the temples, Israel had not received a Word from God in about 400 years

d. Malachi 4 is the last ray of hope Israel had received concerning the Messiah

1) For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2) But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3) And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts. 4) Remember ye the law of Moses my

servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. 5) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: 6) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

- i. From the time of this prophecy, Israel had been under one oppressive ruler after another
- ii. Palestine had become a battle ground where Syria and Egypt warred with each other with the Jewish people being oppressed by them
- iii. Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the temple by offering a swine upon the altar of God, and he persecuted the Jews killing many of them

Note: Antiochus Epiphanes was the antichrist of the Old Testament

- iv. Then the Romans appeared on the scene, and the Jewish people went from one oppressor to another

B. Israel in captivity as an example

1. An example of their hopeless feeling could be seen in the example of Israel in Egyptian captivity
2. They had been promised a Promised Land, but they were slaves in Egypt
3. Prophecies had been made concerning their deliverance, but they remained in slavery
 - a. God had told Abraham that they would be delivered after 450 years, but they were oppressed in slavery
 - b. Joseph told them to take his bones with them when God delivered them, but they remained in slavery
 - c. Moses is born as a miracle baby, not slain by the Egyptians, but he is raised in Pharaoh's house, while they remain in slavery
 - d. At the age of 40, Moses kills an Egyptian, hope arises, then Moses flees for his life to Midian while then remain in slavery
 - e. 40 years later, at the age of 80, Moses appears again, like one raised from the dead to deliver them, but hardship became worse while Moses followed God's direction
 - f. Then one night, while the Egyptians are mourning the death of their firstborns, the Israelites protected from the Death Angel by "Lamb's Blood" spoil the Egyptians and head for their homeland

Note: Hopelessness ruled the day, then there was hope, then hope was lost, then hope reappeared, then deliverance was theirs.

II. Hope appeared with Jesus

A. Darkness prevailed before Jesus appeared

1. Hopelessness ruled the day when Jesus appeared
2. 400 years without a Word from God
3. Greeks, then Egyptians, then Syrians, Then Egyptians, Then Syrians, and then Romans
4. Persecution was what they endured as they clung to their belief, but hopelessness covered them like a heavy fog blinding their vision so there was no clarity to their sight

B. Then for a few a ray of Hope began to appear

1. In Luke 2, we read about an old man named Simeon
 - a. He waited for the consolation of Israel...the Paraklēsis or Comfort of Israel, the Messiah
 - b. He had received a personal revelation from the Holy Ghost that he would see the Lord's Christ before he died

Note: I am sure that Simeon told a few devout people about the personal revelation the Holy Ghost had given him, which would bring hope into a person's life

2. We read in Luke 1 where Zacharias is given Word by an angel that his wife Elizabeth would have a baby, who was to be named John, and he would be the messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah
3. We read in Luke 1 that six months after an angel visited Zacharias, this angel appeared to a virgin named Mary revealing to her that she would be the mother of the Messiah
4. John is born, Zacharias proclaims blessings upon his son declaring his purpose to be a forerunner of the Messiah in fulfillment of Malachi 4
5. Jesus is born, and all the events surrounding his birth is well known as the shepherds come to worship him, and this causes hope in the hearts of Israel's faithful
6. Then Simeon and Anna declare their prophecies and blessings over the Messiah in the temple when he is brought to perform the law when he is eight days old
7. The wise men come from the east to worship and honor the Messiah

C. Hopelessness sets again, but is regained

1. Jesus disappears, maybe He is slain by Herod with all the other babies
2. Nothing is heard from him for 27 to 29 years as he lives in obscurity in a little town called Nazareth
3. Then John the Baptist appears on the scene preaching and baptizing in the Jordan
 - a. Declaring according to Prophecy in Luke 3
Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
 - b. In Luke 3:16, John declared

...I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

- c. In John 1:29, John sees Jesus coming to him and declares
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

4. Here, in Christ is the Hope of the World

- a. Notice John 1:3-6

3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

- b. Again in John 1:7-9, we read

7) (John)...came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him (Jesus) might believe. 8) (John) was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9) That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

- c. Once again, in John 1:12-14, we read

12) But as many as received him (Jesus), to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his (Jesus') name: 13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

5. Jesus is the light that came into a world of darkness, Matthew 4:16 records it

The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up

D. Hope reigns, but is lost

1. People flock to Jesus as He heals their sick, raises their dead, and comforts them with teaching of life
2. For 3 years, 12 men follow Him faithfully, as Peter said, forsaking all to follow Jesus
3. The problem is that they looked for a kingdom here, and they never understood what Jesus was teaching them
4. Then we arrive to the day of the Crucifixion
 - a. They have saw Jesus when he would walk through the crowd without harm as they tried to throw him off the brow of the hill in Nazareth
 - b. They saw Him when the crowds attempted to stone Him, but could not Jesus no harm
 - c. They heard Him as He opposed the crowd and said to the woman caught in adultery, neither do I condemn go and sin no more
 - d. They heard Him go against the leaders when He declared to the sick of the palsy, your sins are forgiven you
 - e. But now, they carry Him away
 - i. They do not understand how this could happen
 - ii. They did not understand the trials that He had to face
 - iii. They did not comprehend how it had happened that their Jesus had been so disfigured by beating He had received
 - iv. Now, in horror, they watch as He hangs on the cross dying
 - v. They heard the jeers, the mockery, and perhaps even thought, surely He will come down from the cross
 - vi. Instead, as they watch, they heard Him say
 - 1) To the thief, today thou shalt be with me in Paradise
 - 2) Declare "It is finished," meaning paid in full
 - v. They saw him breathe His last, and their hope died with Jesus
5. How do you think they felt

- a. This is not what they signed up for three years ago
- b. How did this happened
- c. Where had they failed
- d. What could they do over
- e. They were afraid, and went and hid themselves

IV. Hope reappeared with Jesus' Resurrection

A. Three days have gone by

- 1. For three days they have grieved
- 2. For three days the women have prepared to anoint His body
- 3. For three days they have wondered what they were going to do
- 4. I believe the story in Luke 24 of the two men on the road to Emmaus demonstrates how they felt
 - a. They discussed what had happened
 - b. They were sad and puzzled
 - c. They knew He had been crucified, and now, they had heard of His resurrection
 - d. They were so deep in thought that they did not recognize Jesus when He joined them

B. With the Resurrection of Jesus there is hope

- 1. Not only for those followers of Jesus, but for you and I as well
- 2. 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 show us the importance of Jesus' resurrection

12) Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13) But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14) And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

- 3. We have hope today because the tomb where Jesus was lain is empty
- 4. We have hope today because Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, ever living, ever making intercession for us so we can have life

Conclusion

1. There is only hope in Christ for Acts 4:12 tells us that there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.
2. Only through Christ is there hope for He is the only door to the Heaven's sheepfold
3. Adam's side was opened and he received a bride named Eve, and Jesus' side was opened that He may receive a bride called the Church, giving us hope of eternity with Him
4. Let me share with you God's hope for us
 - a. We are in sin, hell bound, but Jesus came that we may have life and spend eternity in heaven with Him
 - b. There is only hopelessness without Christ
 - c. Peace, Joy, Happiness, Hope, Life can only be found in Jesus
 - d. Without Christ we are living in darkness, doomed for eternity in the Lake of Fire
 - e. Christ came and brought Light and Life to a world of darkness and death
5. You may have had hope, but if you have went away from God, you are again living in darkness without hope
 - a. Christ does not save us for us to live in darkness
 - b. Understand that if we make it a practice to live in sin, then darkness is what covers our lives
 - c. Sin, nor the one who practices sin, will enter into heaven
6. Today, put off the cloak of darkness and come to Jesus the Light so you can have eternal life
7. Hope can be, will be yours when you turn to Jesus