

THE GIFT OF HOPE

"Thou hast caused me to hope" Psalm 119:49

FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE WORD HOPE IN SCRIPTURE

The poignant first use of the word hope recorded in the King James Bible occurred on the plains of Moab outside the Promised Land. It proceeded from the broken-hearted widow Naomi, who had buried her husband and both of her sons. The sons she would have looked to for care in her old age. As she trudged back to her home country in Judah, she urged her two widowed Moabite daughters-in-law to return to their parents to hopefully find new husbands, telling them if they went with her, there was no hope she would provide more sons for them to marry. It is easy to sense the hopelessness that filled Naomi's heart due to the hope destroying circumstances she faced.

WE HAVE ALL EXPERIENCED LOSS OF HOPE

While you may not have been in quite as difficult a situation as Naomi, we have all experienced loss of hope. Living in and coping with all the challenges present in this fallen world can be daunting, dispiriting, and depressing.

NAOMI'S PROVISION

When Naomi spoke to her daughters-in-law about how hopeless staying with her was, she could not have foreseen the provision that God had for her through the daughter-in-law who refused to leave her side or leave the projection of the God that Naomi's people looked toward for help. Because of this, Naomi ended up in a place of comfort far beyond anything she could have imagined.

OUR SOURCE OF HOPE

There is never a legitimate reason for the child of God to lose hope. There are so many reasons for us to hope in God to receive the help we need, including:

- His mercy – Psalm 33:18
- His Word – Psalm 119:81
- His promises of protection – Psalm 119:114

THE SOURCE OF CHRIST'S HOPE ON THE CROSS

Our example when facing hopeless situations is, of course, our Savior. David prophetically foretold how Christ rested in hope amid His suffering on the cross. *"I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope"* (Psalm 16:8-9). Set the Lord before you in your difficult circumstances, child of God. And then rest in Jesus' name.