



Keep Hope Alive!
Jeremiah 17:5-7

Jeremiah
17:5-8

This is what the Lord says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man, and whose heart turns away from the Lord. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in Him”

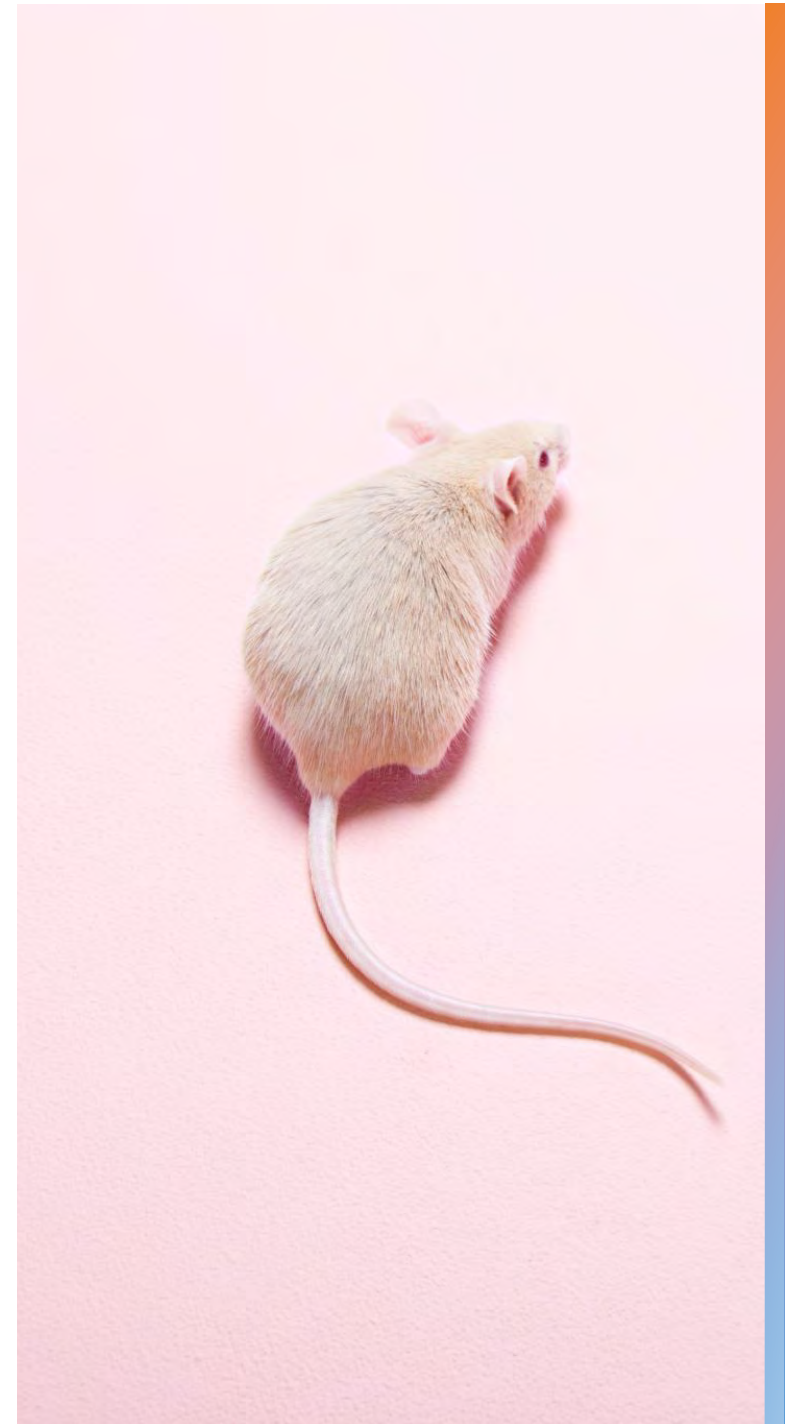


.... They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out the roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Observations

- **Contrary to our popular belief, activist Jesse Jackson was not the first to coin the concept: “Keep Hope Alive”**
- **One of the Bible’s main themes, since the fall of man, has been the theme of HOPE that God has created throughout scripture to renew His relationship with man like it was before the fall. God has invested Himself in mankind**
- **Hope is essential for the fruitfulness of Christian living**
- **What is Hope?**
- **Hope is a belief in a positive outcome relating to the circumstances of one’s life (to look forward with confidence)**
- **Hope believes a positive outcome is possible even when there is some evidence to the contrary**

- **Years ago, some researchers performed an experiment to look at the effect that HOPE had on those undergoing hardship. Two sets of laboratory rats were put in two tubs of water**
- **The researchers left one set of rats in the tub with water for an hour, and when they came back they all had drowned**
- **The other rats were periodically lifted out of their tub and then placed back in the tub; and when that happened, those rats treaded water for over 24 hours. Why?**
- **The researchers concluded that it wasn't the rest they received, but the hope those rats perceived that if they could stay afloat just a little longer they would be rescued**



If Hope Holds Such Power for Instinctive Rats, How Much Greater Should the Effect of Hope Be On Our Lives



Hurts

Troubles and Difficulties

Sicknesses and Medical Challenges Before Us

Family Problems and Financial Issues

Remember the disciples lost hope on one Friday

They were without hope on Saturday

But they went from NO HOPE to proclaimers, beginning that Sunday Morning that lasted until they died!

Hope and Faith are Not the Same But We Need Both for Our Challenges

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:6

- Faith looks backward and upward, Hope looks onward and outward, Romans 5:3
- Faith appropriates (what you put forth), but hope anticipates
- Faith accepts (circumstances) but hope expects the presence of God in circumstances; Matthew 28:20



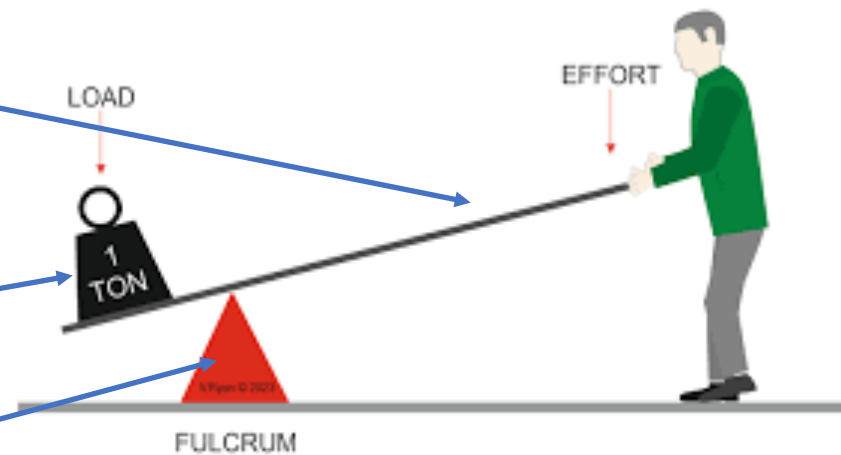
Hope is the Lever on the Fulcrum of Christ that lifts the weight of the soul!

Lever-necessary to lift the weight

Robbing a person of Lever/Hope paralyzes the mainspring of action

Problems, Hurts, Burdens

Christ



But What Kind of Hope Do We Need?

There is Hope That is Just That – “Just HOPE”

- “I HOPE that it doesn’t rain tomorrow”
- “I HOPE that I get a better job”
- “I HOPE that I can get married one day, then I’ll be alright.”
- “I HOPE that I make more money and have a bigger house”
- “I sure HOPE I go to Heaven when I die”---no commitment

These Hopes are based Our HUMAN DESIRES! (Wishful Thinking)

These are Just Hopes for Things to Go as We Wish

God Never Promised That!

A Christian Should Not Use As A Phrase:

“I Hope I am a Christian”

That’s Like Saying

“I Hope I am American”

Romans 8:24

“..But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”

- I do not hope to be something that I KNOW I already am



There is False Hope

- The thief who hopes he can continually steal without consequences (embezzling a little at a time)
- The unfaithful spouse who hopes he/she can always get away with illicit affairs
- The rebellious child who disobeys his/her parents and hopes he/she has gotten away with his/her actions
- The church member who hopes that church membership is all that's necessary to escape God's judgement

***False Hopes Seem Self
Sufficient UNTIL Testing
Time Comes!***

***Many Men and Women
Have Found That Their
Hopes Were Vain When
Troubles Arose (money,
status, health)***

***Children Will Embellish
Their Parents' Vainities!***

***David's life before his sons,
Absalom and Amnon,
(What could he say?)***



Principles of True Hope

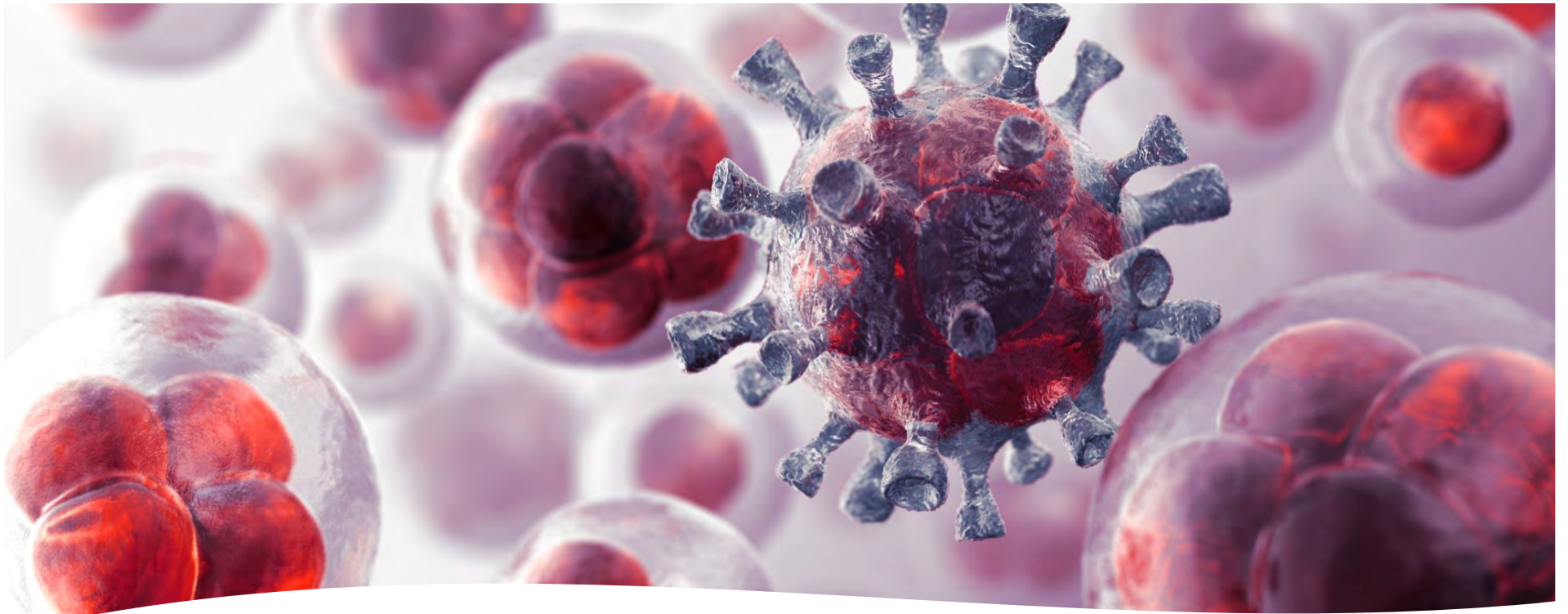
- True Hope is Realistic-Romans 8:28 says *“All things work together for good, not “all things are good”*

Abraham and Sarah’s hope was not based upon an unrealistic view of His capabilities but upon God’s ability to do what was humanly impossible. Ephesians 3:20,21

- True Hope Remains Focused on God--Joseph’s hope remained solidly focused on God when he was sold into slavery, lied about, and thrown into prison.

To his brothers: *“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result to preserve many people alive” Genesis 50:20*

- Job lost everything and never knew while he was suffering, why he was! But he remained focused on God; *“Though he slay me yet will trust/hope in Him” Job 13:15.*



***Satan Wants Us to Lose Our Focus
on God, and Focus On Our:***

- Hurts
- Troubles
- Difficulties
- Health Challenges; Chronic Illnesses
- Disappointments

The Hebrew Writer Reminds Us to Remained Focused On Jesus

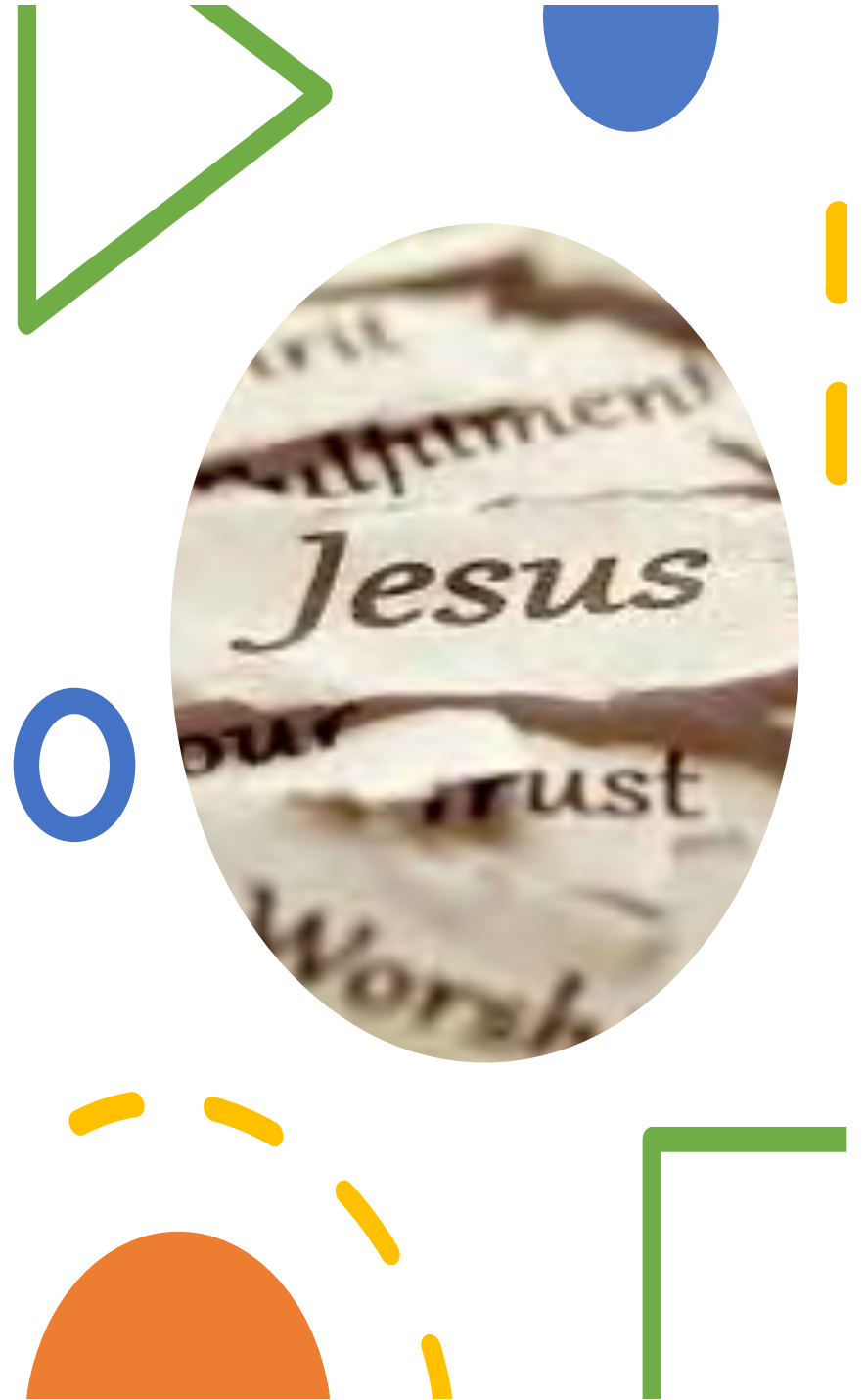
- After detailing the challenges that the saints of the Bible had in Hebrews chapter in 11, look at how he opens chapter 12, in verses 1 and 2:

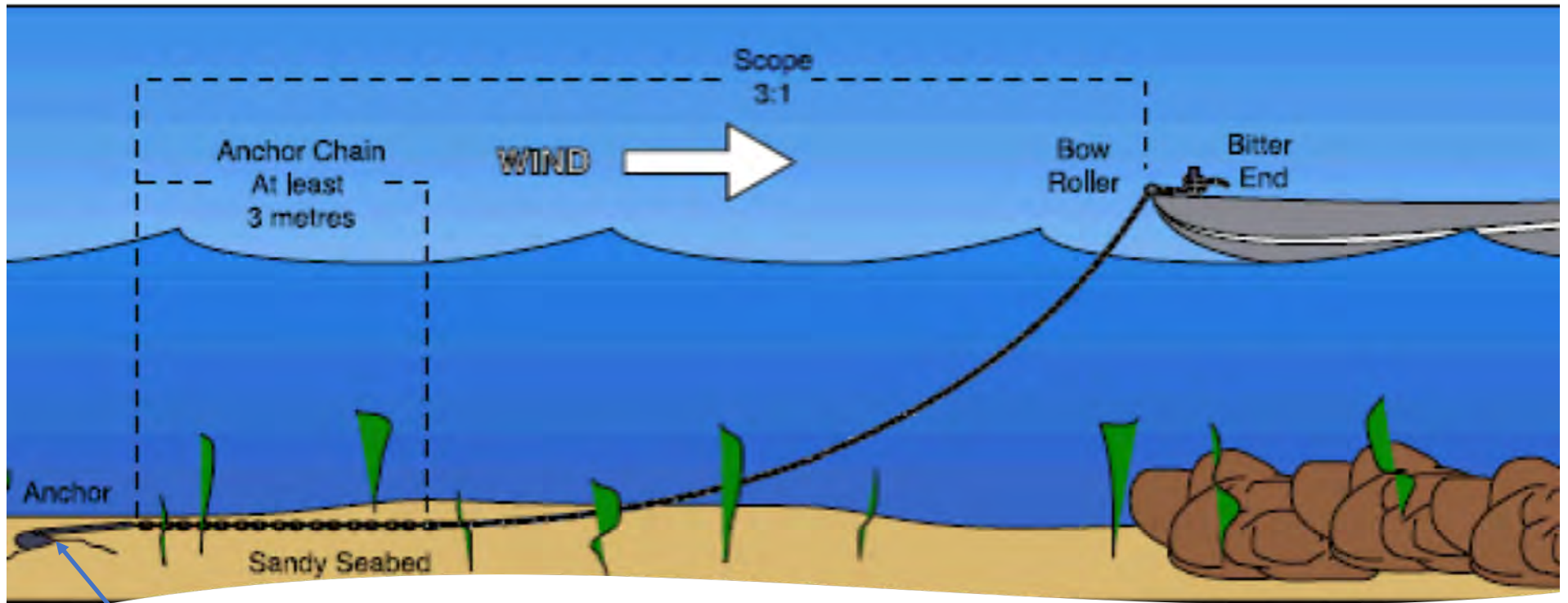
“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

- Let me pause here: Patience is required when our present circumstances are not what we had HOPED (no quick fix)
- Patience was the virtue that all of the saints in Hebrews 11 had to employ (Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David)

The Hebrew Writer Continues by Saying in Hebrews 12:2

***“Looking unto Jesus the
author and finisher of our
faith; who for the joy that
was set before Him,
endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and is set down at the
right hand of the throne
of God.”***





The Anchor
for the Boat

Our Hope in Christ is “an Anchor to the Soul, both sure and steadfast!” Heb. 6:19

- Hurts
- Difficulties
- Troubles
- Health Challenges
- Disappointments

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38