


A blue sky with a bright sun and a path of white clouds leading upwards. The sun is positioned at the top of a vertical path of clouds that starts from the bottom left and goes towards the top center. The sky is a deep blue, and there are other scattered white clouds.

# Christians have a Sustaining Hope of Heaven

I Pt. 1:3 - 12



but those who  
hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings  
like eagles; they will run  
and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

# It is the Same with Christians:

- It is our fixed hope of heaven that keeps us going during the difficult times of life.
- Within our Text, Peter is holding the promise of Heaven before the weary hearts & minds of his first century readers.

A sunset over the ocean with a pier silhouette on the left. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky and water. The pier is dark and silhouetted against the bright sky.

# I. The Nature of the Christians Hope

I Pt. 1:3 - 5

Peter was writing to:



- Christians who were struggling with their Faith.
- Many were suffering from persecution at the time of the writing of I Peter.



I Peter 1:3 – 5, “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

# It is the Child of God who has an “inheritance” reserved in heaven.



Rms. 8:15 -17, “you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs --heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

# The Christians bright future is rooted in a PAST EVENT IN HISTORY.



I Cor. 15:20 – 23, “But now Christ is risen from the dead & has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.”





He is Risen...

**Jesus looked beyond  
his death and said:**

Jn. 14:1 – 3, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also."

# As Christians:

- We look to the past and we see God's power that is connected with Jesus Resurrection.
- Then we look to the future, because of His Resurrection with the confident hope of heaven.

# II. The Power of the Christians Hope

I Pt. 1:6 - 9

- The assurance of victory is the best incentive for any weary soldier to keep fighting.
- The certainty of reaching your destination will cause a tired traveler to press on.
- For the Christian, the knowledge that better things await us, provokes us to faithfulness.



**Peter believed that if Christians could only look beyond the circumstances of the moment to Eternal things, they would find the strength to press on.**

2 Cors. 4:16-18, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.”



# The trials that come to us during the course of a lifetime are from various sources:

- There are tragic accidents, lingering illnesses, physical handicaps, business failures, and countless others.
- God does not allow these things in human experience for the purpose of hurting his creatures; he allows them for the sake of testing our moral and spiritual quality.
- It is important to understand that he allows these things to happen, not causes them to happen.

# III. The Certainty of the Christians Hope

The promise of Salvation that was promised to Christians who would persevere under the trials of life, Peter writes:

I Pt. 1:10 – 12, “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you,<sup>11</sup> searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.<sup>12</sup> To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.”

The O.T. Prophets foretold things that they didn't fully understand the meaning of.

- They spoke of blessings that God would bring to mankind by means of the Christ.
- Yet they fully did not fully understand how & when these things would come to be.

# The same Holy Spirit who guided the O.T. Prophets were guiding Peter:

- Our text speaks of the Certainty of the Christians hope.
  - Verses 3 – 5, explain the nature of our hope.
    - It is living & will last for eternity.
  - Verses 6 – 9, speak of the power of such hope.
- It gives us the strength to endure any amount of adversity.
  - Verses 10 – 12, reveals the reasons why we can look forward to our Heavenly Reward.
    - Our hope rest not on the words of men, but upon the promises of God.



The writer of Hebrews speaks of being “greatly encouraged” by means of the “hope offered to us ... as an anchor for the soul, firm & secure.”

Such hope is much more than wishful thinking, but the confident expectation of God’s promises.

The Bible calls us to view life from the end,  
to take an “eternal perspective” on life.

- For the Christian it is the word of God that brings peace in the midst of pain and problems.
- Faith reaches up to God for strength to endure & hope gives us something to hold on to.