

[ms-0399.002.008,016]

12-21-'97

CHRISTMAS HOPE

Scripture 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

DAVID WAS A MAN OF ACTION. HE HAD DEFEATED GOLIATH AND HAD OUTLIVED KING SAUL, SUCCEEDING HIM ON THE THRONE. DAVID DEFEATED ALL ISRAEL'S ENEMIES, MADE JERUSALEM HIS CAPITAL, AND BUILT A PALACE LINED WITH CEDAR. HE DEVELOPED A BAD CONSCIENCE BECAUSE GOD WAS STILL BEING WORSHIPED IN A TENT.

DAVID TOLD THE PROPHET NATHAN THAT HE WANTED TO BUILD GOD A TEMPLE. THE LORD SAID NO--INSTEAD, HE WOULD ESTABLISH THE HOUSE OF DAVID. THERE IS A PLAY ON WORDS HERE INSTEAD OF BUILDING GOD A HOUSE, GOD WOULD ESTABLISH DAVID'S HOUSE FOREVER.

I OUR GOD IS A GOD OF GRACE

CONSIDER WHAT THE LORD DID FOR DAVID:

I TOOK YOU FROM...FOLLOWING THE SHEEP TO BE PRINCE OVER MY PEOPLE ISRAEL" (v8)

GOD ENABLED HIM TO DEFEAT ALL HIS ENEMIES.

THE LORD GAVE HIM A GREAT NAME--STILL HONORED AFTER MANY CENTURIES ( V 9)

DESPITE DAVID'S SIN, THE LORD WAS GRACIOUS TO HIM HE WAS NOT REJECTED.

THINK HOW MUCH WE OWE TO GOD'S GRACE THIS CHRISTMAS. HE HAS BLESSED US BEYOND ANYTHING WE COULD DESERVE. HE HAS FORGIVE US AND GIVEN US ANOTHER CHANCE.

HE SENT HIS SON AND HIS HOLY SPIRIT TO PAY OUR

*Let us celebrate the graciousness of God.*

DEPT AND TO GUIDE US.

CELEBRATE THE GRACIOUSNESS OF GOD.

111 OUR GOD IS A GOD OF HOPE

THIS PASSAGE HAS BEEN A SEEDBED OF HOPE FOR BOTH JEWS AND CHRISTIANS. KING DAVID'S DESCENDANTS RULED FROM HIS THRONE FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN 587 BC, THIS PASSAGE BECAME THE SOURCE OF MESSIANIC HOPE-- THAT GOD'S ANOINTED WOULD ESTABLISH, HIS RULE ON EARTH.

CHRISTIANS SAW THAT HOPE FULFILLED IN JESUS.

WE CELEBRATE THE FULFILLMENT OF THE DIVINE PROMISE AT CHRISTMAS. JESUS WAS BORN TO ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH, DAVID'S DESCENDENT, RULES RULES STILL, "AND HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER-- HALLELUJAH!" CHRIST IS OUR HOPE, THE ANCHOR OF OUR FAITH.

OURS IS A UNIVERSAL FAITH, NOT LIMITED TO ONE PLACE SUCH AS A TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM. CHRIST IS PRESENT EVERY PLACE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE CHURCH IS A LIVING TEMPLE. OUR BODIES ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AVOID A "CATHEDRAL PSYCHOLOGY" THIS CHRISTMAS GIVING THE DEVOTION DUE GOD TO A BUILDING. WE WORSHIP NOT A PLACE BUT A PERSON. WE ARE TO

SERVE THE ONE WORTHY OF ALL HONOR AND GLORY.