



World Christian Fellowship

www.wcflondon.com
wcflondon@gmail.com

Hope in God Luke 13:34-35

Luke 13:34-35, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵ See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”*

In the past three weeks we looked at the following.

History of Israel.

Compassion of God

Judgement of God

Today we will look into the hope in God.

Hope in God since he is faithful.

God’s faithfulness is clearly spelled out in the scriptures.

Romans 9:4, *who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;*

What are those covenants and promises?

There was the promise of God to Abraham. When God chose Abraham out of the city of Ur in the Chaldeans and brought him. God gave him promises.

God said out of his loins would come a great nation. They would number as the stars and the sand of the sea.

They would be blessed.

God would make a covenant with them to bless them and through them to bless the nations of the world.

God gave that covenant to Abraham.

In Genesis 12 and reiterated in chapter 13.

Repeated it again in chapter 15 and 17.

Repeated it again to Isaac, the son of Abraham.

Repeated it again to Jacob, the son of Isaac.

Why?

Because that's the line through which the promise came.

Genesis 15,

We understand the unbreakable character of that covenant.

God reiterates His promise.

Genesis 15:5-11, *Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him*

for righteousness. ⁷Then He said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit."⁸ And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

⁹So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

What is going on here?

This was the way people made covenants in ancient times. When you made a promise to somebody you killed an animal or animals and indicating the seriousness of your promise. You sacrificed something very valuable in an agricultural environment.

The animals which were your livelihood and you laid them out in a blood sacrifice which was also a way of saying may I die before I break my vow. Together you walked between the pieces and this is how you bonded your covenant visibly while people watched.

You made a pledge in blood to keep your promise. This was like a serious contract. Abraham knew that, so he knew exactly what God was saying when He said get the animals. It doesn't

say God told him what to do. He just automatically did it. He cut them up and laid them on two sides.

Genesis 15:12-14, *Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.*

Exactly that is what happened. Two to three million people or so came out. They came out with all their possessions to go to the Promised Land.

Genesis 15:15-16, *Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

God didn't bring them back to that land until the sin of the people in that land, the Canaanite, had reached its culmination. God would cause them to be used as a judge.

Genesis 15:17-21, *And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. ¹⁸On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying:*

“To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— ¹⁹the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

God puts Abram to sleep and then God, Himself, passes through the pieces.

Not Abram, why?

Because God was not making a promise dependent upon Abram.

It was not a conditional covenant.

It was a covenant that God made with Himself.

God sealed Himself to His promise!

Hebrews 6:13-14, *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”*

God swore by Himself because there was no greater.

Hebrews 6:17-18, *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have*

strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

God swore not to Abraham, but to Himself to keep His promise!
This is what we call an unconditional promise.

It is not based upon anything man might do.
It is a promise that God makes with Himself.

What was that promise?

To bless that nation,
multiply that nation,
through that nation to bless the nations of the world,
to give them a land and
blessing spiritually.

Later on, that Abrahamic covenant was enriched by a promise made to David in 2 Samuel chapter 7. God unilaterally, unconditionally bound Himself to bring out of the line of David a greater son who would bring an everlasting kingdom that would stretch across the world and last forever.

God made this the beginning of His promise to Israel.
The Abrahamic covenant and later the Davidic covenant sum up all that God promised Israel, a land, blessing, salvation, a kingdom.

Will God be faithful to His promise?

Because of God's promises to Abraham and to Isaac and to Jacob and to the Jews, God is bound by His nature to fulfil those promises.

God is Faithful

Joshua just before his death he was giving confident to the people about the trustworthiness of God. The people coming into the land, settling in the land, ready to receive in the land of Canaan the promises of God. They needed to know that God was going to keep His promise.

Joshua 21:43-45, *So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. ⁴⁴The Lord gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. ⁴⁵Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.*

Almost after 450 years from Egypt. 400 years of bondage and 40 years in the wilderness.

Joshua 23:14-15, *“Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which*

the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.¹⁵ Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all the good things have come upon you which the Lord your God promised you, so the Lord will bring upon you all harmful things, until He has destroyed you from this good land which the Lord your God has given you.

Joshua tells them that he is going to die. People should know that in all their hearts and souls that not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God spoke concerning them has failed.

All have been fulfilled for you!
Not one of them has failed!!

Solomon prayed the same thing.

1 Kings 8:15, *And he said: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying,*

It is a monumental reality that the nation Israel still exists. That the Jews still exist as Jews in their national heritage and even in their own land, though only a small portion of what God originally gave them.

When Jesus Christ, the Messiah came, God was bringing the most important element of His promise. For Israel could never be blessed, they could never have a land, they could never have

a kingdom, they could never have salvation unless a final and complete sacrifice was offered, unless a Saviour and a Deliverer was provided.

The whole sacrificial system of the Old Testament killing animals, over and over endlessly and never did they finally take away sin. They all longed for a final sacrifice.

So critical to the promise of a kingdom, critical to the promise of blessing, critical to the promise of salvation was God sending His Son, the Messiah and the Saviour.

So, God did send Jesus the saviour.

An angel came and told Zacharias and Elizabeth. Zacharias was an Old Testament priest, and his wife Elizabeth and he were barren in their old age. They had never been able to have children and the angel came and said you are going to have a son and that son is going to be the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. The long-awaited prophet who would announce the arrival of Messiah. Zacharias was so overwhelmed at this prophecy and completely understood its implications. **(Luke 1:5-25)**

Zacharias reaches back to the sure promises that God gave to David and the sure promises that God gave to Abraham. He touches the Abrahamic and Davidic covenant, covenants of blessing and a kingdom and salvation and all those great realities.

Luke 1:67-79, Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: ⁶⁸ "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, ⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, ⁷⁰ As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, ⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, ⁷² To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, ⁷³ The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. ⁷⁶ "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, ⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, ⁷⁸ Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; ⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

They knew there had to be a deliverer.

They knew there had to be a prophet like unto Moses.

They knew there had to be one who would come and offer the final sacrifice.

John 1:11, He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him

They did not want Jesus Christ to be their King to be their Saviour, to be their Messiah.

They rejected Him!

The people, along with the leaders, told Pilate, crucify, crucify, crucify. We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.

They didn't want Him.

They had long killed the prophets and stoned the people who were sent to them from God.

They had long disobeyed and rejected, but here came the great moment of all redemptive history.

The Messiah arrives.

Surely, they will understand, and believe, but they did not.

- Rather than loving Him, they hated Him.
- Rather than honouring Him, they persecuted Him.
- Rather than exalting Him, they executed Him.

Peter preached in Acts 3

Paul preached in Acts 13.

God sent His son, sent His son as an offering for sin, raised Him from the dead as He had promised.

God did exactly what He said He would do. He would send the Messiah and the Deliverer. He would send the sacrifice, the one who would provide life, and they refused Him.

Romans 9:32-33, *Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. ³³As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*

The Jews continue in this same rejection of Jesus Christ. They are adamant about it and their leadership is adamant about it.

It's inconceivable that they could have been so wrong about the Messiah. It's inconceivable then that Jesus could be the Messiah because He died.

He couldn't possibly be the Messiah because the kingdom didn't come. The Romans came in with power and destroyed the place. He certainly couldn't be the Messiah when all the religiously wise and insightful scholars of Israel so totally rejected Him. So, Jews today just cannot accept that Jesus is the Messiah.

The tragic history of persecution by the so-called Christians and others in the world.

They are now in a situation of having rejected Christ and they continue to reject Christ. They are still in basically the desolation of the beginning of verse 35, "Your house is left to you."

Many people who are theologians and Bible teachers say this is it. Israel's done and they are finished. The only way in the future that Israel will ever be a consideration is when individual Jews come to Christ. There is no future for the nation!

They are a nation still, still connected to their national, genetical heritage and in their own land, or a portion of it. That has immense significance if you believe God keeps His promise. It would have huge significance if there were no Israelites. Then we would have to question anything and everything God said.

We are not seeing the history of the nation of Israel but the History of God. This is a lesson about the character of God.

V 35, and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "

The word "until" is the word of hope.

"Until," literally, "until a time coming" or "until coming and saying."

This implies that there will be such an event when they will say "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

The character of God is at stake.

Romans 9-11 is about Israel; we had looked at in some details in the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:21, *But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."*

Apostle Paul quotes from **Isaiah 65:2**.

It was true through their whole history.

It was true when Isaiah wrote it.

It was true when Paul wrote it.

God is still stretching out His hands to a disobedient, obstinate people.

Romans 11:1, *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

Is their continued rebellious made God to reject them?

May it never be.

That is the strongest negative in the Greek language, no, no, no, impossible, can't happen.

Paul gives us some escalating responses.

For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

His first illustration is God isn't finished with the Jew because I am one and I am saved.

So, we know then there is individual salvation still for the Jew.

Romans 11:2-5, *God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,³ "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?⁴ But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."*

This is 1 Kings 19.

Is God finished with Israel?

No!

Paul gives us 2 examples.

1. Paul
2. God's remnant

There is always a remnant.

In Elijah's time there was remnant.

In Isaiah's time there was a remnant.

In Jesus time there was a remnant.

Who was the remnant during the time of Jesus?

Zacharias and Elizabeth, they were part of the Messianic believers.

Joseph and Mary,

Anna, Simeon, the shepherds.

On the Day of Pentecost there were 3,000 in that remnant.

Time after Pentecost there were 5,000.

By the time you get to **Acts Chapter 4** there may have been 20,000 believers.

God always has a remnant of Jews, always!

But that's not really the point.

Romans 11:25, *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Romans 11:26-29, *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." ²⁸ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

Just as it is written in Isaiah 59
God binds Himself to His personal covenant, My covenant.
Not the covenant, but My promise.
This can't change!

Individual Jews come to Christ.
There is always a collective remnant.
The time will come after the fullness of the Gentiles has come
in. The church when Gentiles are all gathered in.
All Israel will be saved.

That is yet to come!

V 35, *when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of
the Lord!' "*

That finally you will recognize your Messiah.

1 Samuel 12:22, *For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His
great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you
His people.*

The Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great
name. His name is who He is.

Who He is?

He is faithful.

If God says it, He will do it.

God cannot break His promise without destroying His name.

Psalms 89:7-8, *God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him. ⁸ O Lord God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.*

Psalms 89:30-37, *“If his sons forsake My law And do not walk in My judgments, ³¹ If they break My statutes And do not keep My commandments, ³² Then I will punish their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes. ³³ Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. ³⁴ My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. ³⁵ Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: ³⁶ His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; ³⁷ It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky.”*

God says look if the sons of Israel disobey me, they'll be punished. The curses will come to pass.

That's a great way to understand that faithfulness is what links all of God's attributes together. He is true to who He is.

Nehemiah:

The children of Israel in the time of Nehemiah have come back from the captivity. They have been restored again, brought back to the land. Nehemiah is helping them rebuild the wall. They will rebuild the city. They will under Zerubbabel rebuild

the temple, God having brought them back after their captivity.
The Levites get together, and they talk to God.

They speak what's in their hearts before God.

Nehemiah 9:26, *“Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations.*

They go through the history of what God has done for them and how He delivered them and led them

They talk to God about the patterns, the cycles of Israel's life, rebellion, restoration, and reversion.

They rebel, they are restored, and they revert.

They rebel and they are restored, and they revert.

It's just this cycle over and over.

That's their history.

They sent the prophets to heaven.

They killed the prophets.

They were disobedient.

They rebelled.

Nehemiah 9:27, *Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their*

trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies.

That would take you back to the rescue after rescue basically that was accomplished by the judges through the period of Israel's history before the monarchy.

There were times when their enemies oppressed them again and there were kings who came along like Josiah and some of the good kings that were used by God to bring a certain restoration and revival.

Nehemiah 9:28-32, *“But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies, ²⁹And testified against them, That You might bring them back to Your law. Yet they acted proudly, And did not heed Your commandments, But sinned against Your judgments, ‘Which if a man does, he shall live by them.’ And they shrugged their shoulders, Stiffened their necks, And would not hear. ³⁰Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. ³¹Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are God, gracious and*

merciful.³² “Now therefore, our God, The great, the mighty, and awesome God, Who keeps covenant and mercy: Do not let all the trouble seem small before You That has come upon us, Our kings and our princes, Our priests and our prophets, Our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.

There it is, because it's not a conditional promise, God could never destroy them. He must save them and give them the promise He made.

Jeremiah 30:10-11, *‘Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the Lord, ‘Nor be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar, And your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, And no one shall make him afraid. ¹¹For I am with you,’ says the Lord, ‘to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.’*

God is not finished with Israel.

Ezekiel 16, this is just one of the great Old Testament texts and when it comes to the promise of God to Israel, none is more dramatic or powerful than this.

Ezekiel is now in captivity in Babylon and God is speaking through him how they got to Babylon as captives.

Ezekiel 16:1-2, *Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ²“Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,*

Tell her why Israel is here?

Why are we suffering this captivity?

Then explains how God found Israel.

The picture is graphic.

It's of a woman who has a baby and doesn't want the baby.

The baby having come out of her womb is then thrown into a field, naked, squirming in its own blood with its cord dangling out of its navel.

When I found you and brought you out of Egypt you were thrown out in a field.

Ezekiel 16:8-14, *“When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord God. ⁹“Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. ¹⁰I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. ¹¹I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. ¹²And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your*

head. ¹³ Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. ¹⁴ Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you,” says the Lord God.

But what did they do?

Read the rest of the verses from 15 -59

You trusted in your beauty.

You played the harlot.

You poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be willing.

You became a prostitute in the lowest sense.

You built prostitution is their idol involvement.

You build shrines and making high places.

You got involved in all kinds of horrible idolatry,

You were unfaithful to God who was their true husband.

You did worse than Samaria

You did worse than Sodom.

God says I Am going to judge you.

God speaks of terrible judgment and to judge you till His anger is spent.

Furious and terrible judgment and part of it was in this captivity.

Whenever they rejected God and abandoned God, they would know His judgment and that is that which Jesus speaks of again as their desolation which even now exists.

However, God says that something He is going to do.

Ezekiel 16:60-63, *“Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. ⁶¹Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you. ⁶²And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, ⁶³that you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done,” says the Lord God.’ ”*

God says that,

- I gave you everything,
- I picked you up when you are squirming in your blood.
- I did everything for you.
- You were unfaithful.
- You played the prostitute, but it's not over.

There will be the salvation of this great nation. History is His story.

History is God's story.

The future salvation of Israel is demanded by the promises of God.

The redemption of the Jews will come in spite of a

- long history of rejection,
- killing God's messengers,
- God's prophets,
- killing God's son.

God took even that and turned it to His saving purpose.

For without the death of Christ, there would be no salvation and therein lies the great providential irony of all history.

The protector, the shield, the shelter, the Father of Israel has abandoned them for now, but not forever.

There will be a day when Israel will say, "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*"