

Hope is on the Way

Winter can drag on, especially for those of us living in northern states. We've dealt with snow, cold winds, slippery roads and very little sunlight. Some of us may even struggle with ~~%~~Seasonal Affective Disorder~~+~~, a medical condition due partly from a lack of sunshine. People may feel depressed or melancholy.

We can't wait for the temperatures to rise, the robins to sing and the first flowers to burst through the soil. Spring brings with it hope, new life and anticipation of things to come. Farmers look forward to tilling the fields, planting the crops and starting the cycle of life again. We wait with anticipation of planting the garden or tending our flower beds.

The Jews of 2000 years ago must have longed for a new glimpse of God's favor. No word had come from the Lord for some time. They lived under powerful Roman rule and no doubt hoped for more, something better. The Old Testament prophecies were well known, familiar to the masses. But when would they be fulfilled? Patience may have been growing thin.

We started the winter season celebrating the fulfillment of the prophesy, the birth of Christ. That excitement gave way to the constant routine of winter, trying to stay warm and just get by. But now as spring draws close, we experience the many emotions of Good Friday and Easter. Watching Jesus suffer the cold reality of sin and death is a sober reminder to us. Then Easter Sunday breaks the frigid chains of death, leaps forward with Christ's resurrection and reminds us of the eternal Spring we know with the promise of Heaven.

All of us have been greatly blessed and we can be a wonderful blessing to those closest to us. As we anticipate the time we get to go home, we can work to complete our Estate Plans, share our faith, care for our families and leave a gift to support our favorite ministries. Let's be sure to communicate the things that are most important to us. Talk about our faith and why the gifts to ministry are an important part of our plans. Our gifts may be the ray of Hope that encourages others to keep telling the Message of Jesus to the world.

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