

“The Hope Of The Promise”
Acts 26:6

Introduction:

1. Please Head Over With Me Tonight:
 - To The New Testament Book Of:
 - Acts – Acts 26:
 - Where We Come To The Personal Defense That The Apostle Paul Made:
 - When He Appeared Before King Agrippa Just Days Before He Would Embark On His Journey To Rome:
 - As A Prisoner - And To Make His “Appeal To Caesar!”
 - And So - We Read In:
 - Acts 26:1-8 - “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself: / 2 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: / 3 Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently. / 4 My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; / 5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. / 6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: / 7 Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope’s sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. / 8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?”
 - And With These Words:
 - Paul Appealed To The Governor Of His People:
 - And One Of His Own Countrymen:
 - With A Principle Of Hope That Even Herod Agrippa Should Have Known About!
 - And That Hope Is Mentioned:
 - In 26:6 - “And Now I Stand Am Judged For The Hope Of The Promise Made Of God Unto Our Fathers!”
 - “The Hope Of The Promise!”
2. Now - For The Last Several Sunday Nights:
 - We Have Be Been Looking At:
 - Several “Points Of Hope!”
 - Glimmers Of The Glory Of Heaven Shining Down To Christians Still Living Here On Earth:
 - That Give Us Just A Taste Of What God Has In Store For Every Person:
 - Who Has “Believed On The Lord Jesus Christ” – And Is “Saved!” (Acts 16:31)
 - We’ve Looked At:
 - The Hope Of The Gospel!
 - The Hope Of Salvation!
 - The Hope Of Eternal Life!
 - Last Sunday Night - We Looked At:
 - The Hope Of His Calling!
 - Tonight - Our Focus Will Be On:
 - “The Hope Of The Promise!”
3. Now - When We Come To The Scripture:
 - We Know That There Are Many Promises:
 - That God Makes – And Will Ultimately Keep:
 - With His People!
 - Peter Tells Us In 2 Peter 1:4:
 - That We Have Been Given - “Exceeding Great And Precious Promises!”
 - And We Know About Those Promises & Have Looked At Many Of Those Promises!
 - And God Himself Is:
 - Ready, Willing & Able To Keep His Promises!
 - And So - Along With Abraham - We Can Be “Fully Persuaded That, What He Has Promised, He Is Able Also To Perform!” (Romans 4:21)
 - But Back In Acts:
 - Paul Is Talking About:

- “The Hope Of *The* Promise!”
 - It Is A Single Promise!
 - But Is Also A Very Significant Promise!
- So - Just What Promise:
 - Is Paul Talking About Here?
 - And What Promise Would He – Along With Many Others – Be Willing To:
 - “Stand” & Be “Judged” For?
 - What Promise Would Motivate Paul To:
 - Risk His Liberty:
 - And His Freedom?
 - What Promise Would Motivate Paul To:
 - Risk Separation From:
 - His Loved-Ones!
 - Brothers & Sisters In Christ?
 - What Promise Would Motivate Paul To:
 - Risk His Very Life:
 - Putting It In The Hands Of One Of The Most Ruthless & Blood-Thirsty Caesars Of Rome – Nero?
- 4. I Believe The Promise He Is Describing:
 - Is The Promise Of:
 - The Resurrection From The Dead!
 - And It Was This Great Promise:
 - That Gave Him Great Hope!
 - So Much Hope:
 - That He Was Convinced That:
 - Any Captivity / Any Separation / And Even His Own Death:
 - Was Only Temporary!
 - Because There Was Great Hope:
 - In The Promise Of The Resurrection From The Dead:
 - To All Those Who Believe In & Belong To The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - 5. In Fact - All Throughout Paul’s Defense:
 - In The Final Chapters Of Acts:
 - He Refers To This Great Promise!
 - Before Claudius Lysias:
 - The Chief Captain Of The Roman Soldiers Stationed In Jerusalem!
 - Before Ananias & The Sanhedrin:
 - The Chief Priest & The Religious Council Of The Jews!
 - Before Felix & Festus:
 - The Governors Of The Roman Province Of Judea!
 - And Before King Agrippa:
 - The Political Leader Of The Jewish Nation!
 - Let’s Look At Some More Of Paul’s Words In His Various Trials:
 - 23:6-8 - Before Ananias & The Sanhedrin:
 - “But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. / And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. / For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both!”
 - What Was Paul’s Hope? And Why Was Paul Called In For Questioning?
 - “The Hope & The Resurrection Of The Dead!” (23:6)
 - 24:14-16 - Before Felix The Roman Governor:
 - “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: / 15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. / 16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men!”
 - What Was Paul’s “Hope Toward God?”

- "That There Shall Be A Resurrection Of The Dead, Both Of The Just And The Unjust!" (24:15)

- 24:21b - Still Before Felix The Roman Governor:

- "Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day!"

- 25:19 - When Festus - The New Roman Governor:

- Speaks To King Agrippa About Paul & His Accusers - "But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive!"

- The Questions Were About:

- A "Superstition" & A "Savior!"

- About Jesus - "Which Was Dead, Whom Paul Affirmed To Be Alive!"

- So - Again - At Issue Was The Hope:

- For Jews & For Christians:

- For A Resurrection From The Dead!

- Last - 26:22-23 - Paul To King Agrippa:

- "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: / That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles!"

- Paul Is Telling Agrippa That:

- The Old Testament Scriptures Prophesied That Jesus Would Die & Then "Be The First That Should Rise Again!"

- And If Jesus Is The "First" Then:

- There Will Be Others After Him:

- Who Will Also "Rise From The Dead!"

6. So - When We Return To:

- 26:6 - "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers!"

- His Hope Is In The Promise:

- Made Of God Unto Their Fathers!

- The Promise Of The Resurrection Of The Dead!

- And This Hope:

- Is Our Hope:

- When We Have Jesus As Our Savior!

- 1 Corinthians 15:22 - "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive!"

- Now - Even Though We Believe In:

- The Promise Of Eternal / Everlasting Life:

- That Promise Looks Primarily At The Duration:

- Of Our Future Existence!

- This Promise – The Promise Of The Resurrection:

- Looks Primarily At The Design:

- Of Our Future Existence!

7. This Hope & This Truth:

- Is Often Difficult:

- For People To Believe!

- Among The Jews:

- They Decided That There Was No Resurrection Of The Dead!

- But Then - According To 26:7 - What Was The Point Of The Jews - "Instantly Serving God Day And Night?"

- This Refers To The Sacrificial & Ceremonial Systems Of The Old Testament!

- What Was The Point For Any Of That:

- If There Would Be No Resurrection & No Eternal Life?

- But Even Among The Church:

- Paul Had To Address Doubt & Criticism As Well!

- 1 Corinthians 15:35 - "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?"

- The Objection They Raised Was Two-Fold:

- They Doubted The Possibility Of A Resurrection!

- "How Are The Dead Raised Up?"

- They Wanted Specifics!
 - We Want Details, Paul! But Also:
 - They Doubted The Process Of A Resurrection!
 - “And With What Body Do They Come?”
 - Now, You Might Think:
 - These Are Some Good Questions!
 - Questions You Might Have Had Yourself Before! And Questions That You Might Like To Have Answered Today!
 - But The Problem With These Questions:
 - Was Not The Subject Matter!
 - No - The Problem Was Their Motive:
 - They Weren’t Really Looking For Answers!
 - No, They Were Trying To Argue!
8. But Later - Paul Does Explain:
- What The Resurrection Of The Dead:
 - Will Be Like - For Christians!
 - After Explaining The Diversity Of God’s Creation:
 - Paul Writes - 15:42 - “So Also Is The Resurrection Of The Dead!”
 - At The Resurrection, God Will Raise & Restore & Reunite Your Body – A Real Body – With Your Soul & Your Spirit - That Will Be Suitable For Your Eternal Future!
 - Both In The New Heavens & The New Earth!
 - 15:42-44 - “So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: / It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: / It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body!”
9. When A Christian Is Resurrected:
- There Will Be Some Similarities:
 - But There Will Also Be Some Great Differences!
 - Our Material Will Be Different!
 - 15:42b - “ It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption!”
 - Talking About Your Body! Your “Seed”!
 - The Body You Have Now:
 - Is Corruptible! It Can Die! It Was Formed Of The “Dust Of The Ground” (Genesis 2:7)! It Will Return To The Dust Of The Ground!
 - Genesis 3:19 - “For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return!”
 - But The Body You Will Have:
 - At The Resurrection:
 - Will Be Incorruptible!
 - A Body That Is Suitable For Eternal Life!
 - What Form? Don’t Know! But It Will Never Perish!
 - Our Manifestation Will Be Different!
 - 15:43a - “ It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory!”
 - Still Talking About Your Body! Your Seed!
 - The Body You Have Now:
 - Dies With Dishonor!
 - Reminds Us Of The Cause Of Death & The Body’s Destruction – Sin!
 - Morticians Always Try To Make The Body Of The Dead Look Right & Dignified! Glad They Do!
 - But There Really Is No Dignity In Death Itself! Because Death Is An Enemy & An Intruder Into Life!
 - But The Body You Will Have (As A Christian):
 - At The Resurrection:
 - Will Be “Raised In Glory!”
 - In A State Of Splendor & Glory!
 - Like The Splendor & Glory Of Jesus Himself!
 - Philippians 3:21 - “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body!
 - Our Might Will Be Different!
 - 15:43 - “It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power!”

- The Body You Have Now:
 - Is Weak & Frail & Sickly!
 - If It Is Not Now, Just Wait!
 - This Is How We Die & Why We Die!
- But The Body You Will Have:
 - At The Resurrection:
 - Will Be Strong & Powerful!
- Our Motives Will Be Different!
 - 15:44 - "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body!"
 - This Does Not Mean That You Will Have An Invisible Spirit-Body! No - It Means That:
- The Body You Have Now:
 - Is A "Natural" Body!
 - One That Is Governed By & Driven By:
 - Your Senses!
 - We Live Our Lives Now:
 - By Responding To Our Senses As Humans! Part Of God's Design! However, Sadly, We Often Respond In Illegitimate, Sinful Ways!
 - When We Get Hungry, We Eat!
 - When We Get Tired, We Sleep!
 - We Are Subject To Our Senses & Our Appetites!
 - And This Is A Struggle For A Christian!
 - Because Our Desires Are Tainted & Often Tempt Us To Sin!
 - But, Praise God, Things Will Be Different!
- The Body You Will Have (As A Christian):
 - At The Resurrection:
 - Will Be A "Spiritual" Body!
 - One That Is Governed By & Driven By:
 - Not Your Senses Any Longer!
 - But By The Holy Spirit Of God!
 - You Will Be Able To Walk In The Spirit!
 - As You Desire To Do Now!
 - You Will Be Able To Be Filled With The Spirit!
 - As You Desire To Be Now!
 - And None Of Your Senses / Appetites:
 - Will Ever Get In Your Way Again!
 - They Will No Longer Rule & Govern You!
 - No, You Will Be Able To Rule & Govern Them!

10. This Is The Hope That You Have:

- As A Christian:
 - In The Promise Of The Resurrection Of The Dead!
 - John 11:25-26 - "Jesus said – I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"
- Our Faith Hangs On This Hope!

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