

The Candle of Hope

Introduction: For Advent we will consider the four candles, beginning with the candle of Hope.

I) Drastic changes have occurred worldwide since the last Advent season.

A) Fear of COVID is widespread. The truth of COVID is censored. Effective treatment is lampooned.

II) Why should we have hope?

A) Where hope comes from -*Psalm 119:43, 74, 81, 114, 147; Psalm 130:5.*

B) As our nation struggles, what can we do? - *Psalm 33:17-22.*

III) Historic content of Isaiah's text.

A) First coming prophecy -v2.

B) Second coming prophecy -v3-5.

IV) Scriptural comparisons -1 *Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4.*

A) Harvest festival -*Isaiah 11:9.*

B) Dividing the plunder -2 *Kings 7.*

C) Midian and Israel -*Judges 6:1-6.*

D) Midian's defeat -*Judges 7:19-23.*

E) Burning war garments -*Isaiah 2:4.*

V) Hope for a new government -v6.

A) Jesus took our curse -*Deut. 21:23.*

B) He earned the titles -v6b.

VI) Our hope is not far off -*John 1:11-13; 2 Corinthians 1:21b-22; Romans 5:1-5.*

VII) Benefits of hope -*Isaiah 40:30-31; Lamentations 3:25-26; Romans 8:24-25.*

VIII) Apply yourselves to hope -1 *Peter 1:13.*

Conclusion: Concentrate on that which inspires hope - consider the lyrics of ***Joy to the World.*** Paul's prayer for hope -*Romans 15:13.*