

Hope in the Waiting

Luke 1:26–56

Luke 1:26–56

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1:26–56

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1:26–56

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:26–56

³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26–56

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

Luke 1:26–56

⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Luke 1:26–56

Mary's Song

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

Luke 1:26–56

- ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
- ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
- ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
- ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
- ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
- ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Luke 1:26–56

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

waiting



Isaiah 9:1-2

That time of darkness and despair will not go on forever... The people who walk in darkness will see **a great light**. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, **a light will shine...**



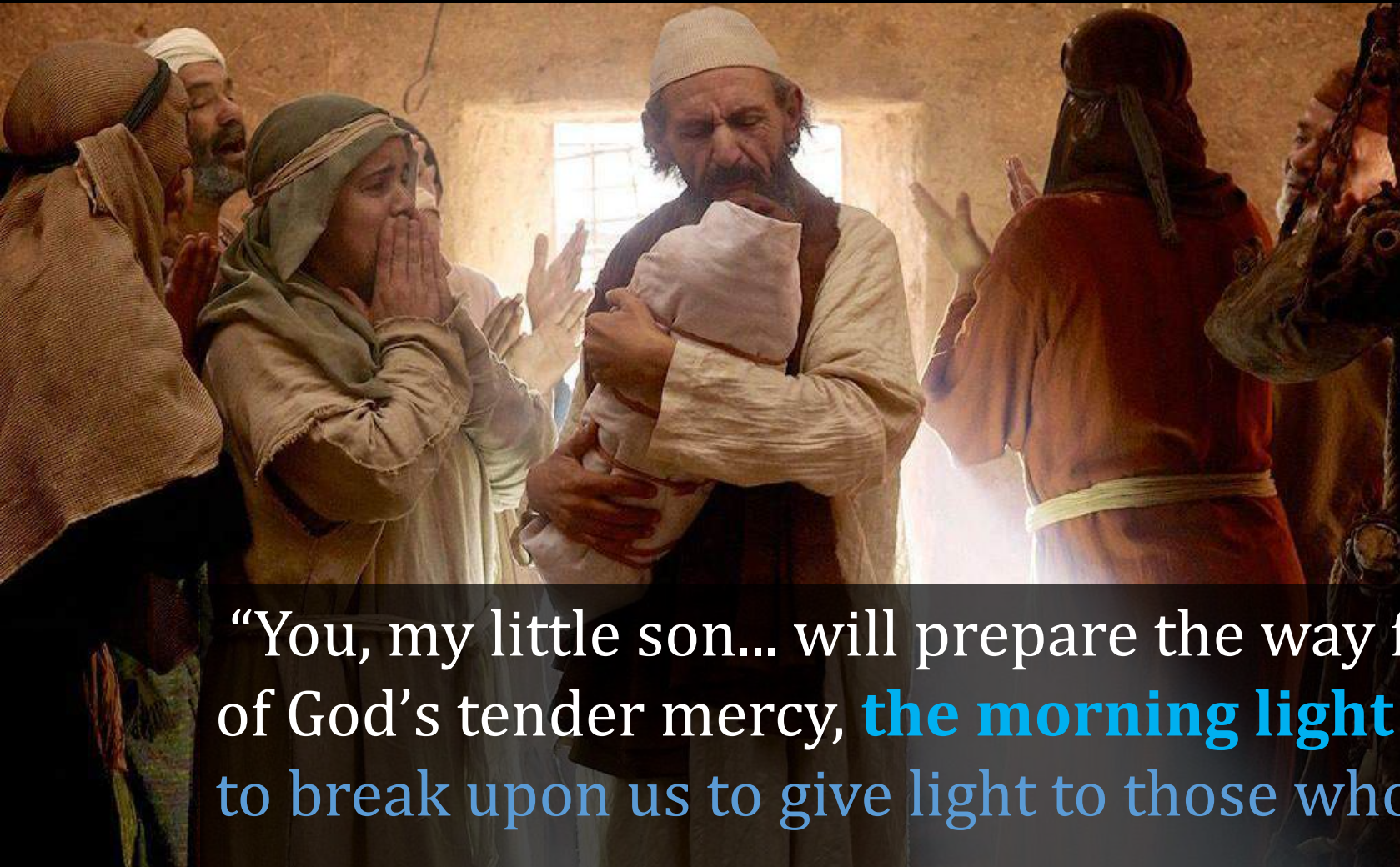
Malachi 4:1–2

The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace...

But for you who fear my name, the **Sun of Righteousness** will rise with healing in his wings.







“You, my little son... will prepare the way for the Lord... Because of God’s tender mercy, **the morning light from heaven** is about to break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness...”

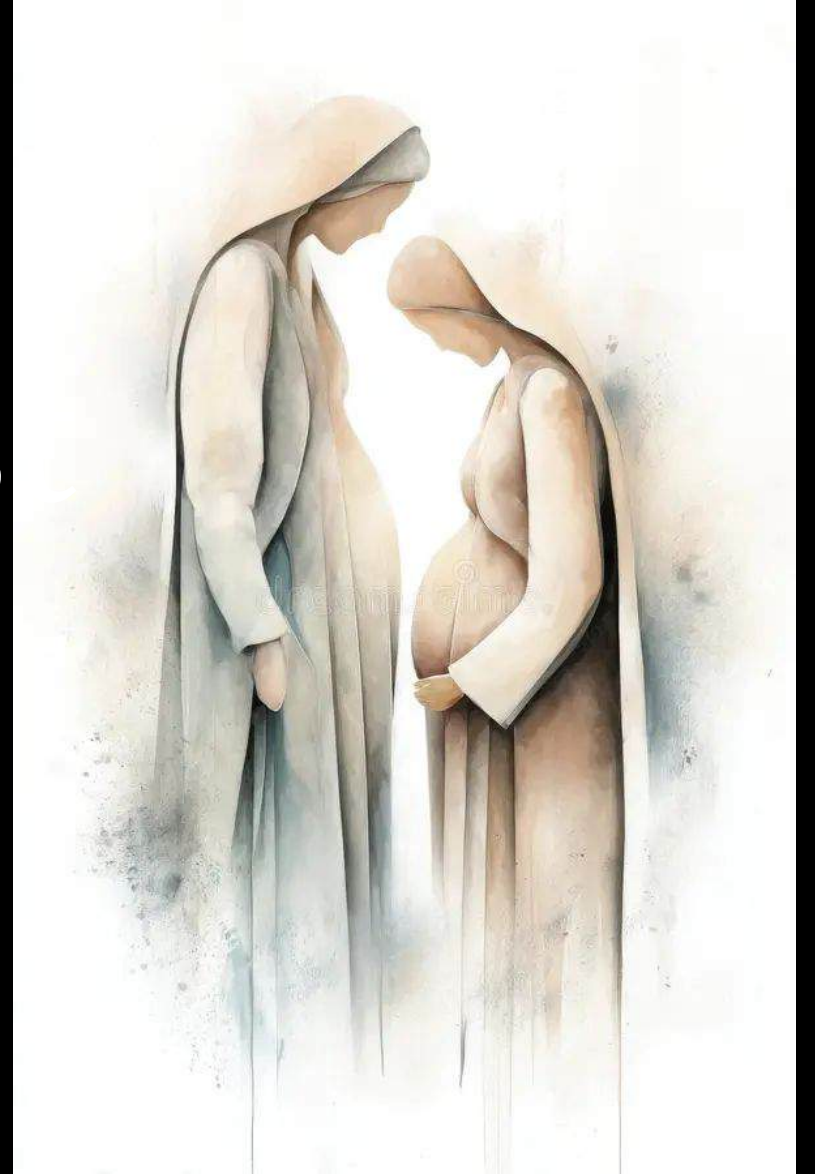
Luke 1:76, 78-79

God sent... John the Baptist to tell about **the Light...**
the One who is the true light, who gives light to
everyone, was coming into the world.”

John 1:6



hope of Chris





2025



We know that the whole creation has been groaning as
in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time

Rom. 8:22



hope of Christ

Acts 3:20–21

²⁰ Then **times of refreshment will come** from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. ²¹ For he must remain in heaven until the time for **the final restoration of all things**, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Acts 3:20–21

²⁰ Then **times of refreshment will come** from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. ²¹ For he must remain in heaven until the time for **the final restoration of all things**, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Isa. 65:17–19

“For behold, I create **new heavens and a new earth...** the former things shall not be remembered...”

Acts 3:20–21

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Isa. 65:17–19

“For behold, I create **new heavens and a new earth...** the former things shall not be remembered...”

Rev. 21:3–5

“Behold, I am making **all things new.**”



hope of Christ



already but not yet

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a range of dark mountains. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the water in the foreground is dark and calm. The text "already but not yet" is overlaid in white serif font across the middle of the image.

already but not yet

God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles
the glorious riches of this mystery, which is
Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Col. 1:27





For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this **light shine in our hearts** so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. **We now have this light shining in our hearts**, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing **this great treasure....**

2 Cor. 4:6–7



I am the **light of the world.**

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the **light of life.**

John 8:12





carrying **hope**
... **Christ** *in me*

Psalm 8:2

Through the **praise** of children and infants you
have established **a stronghold** against your
enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

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Through the **praise** of children and infants you have established **a stronghold** against your enemies, **to silence** the foe and the avenger.







Psalm 92:12-14

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,

...

They will **still bear fruit in old age,**
they will **stay fresh and green.**



Psalm 92:12–14

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,

...

They will **still bear fruit in old age,**
they will **stay fresh and green.**

Psalm 71:17–18

Since my youth, God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation...





Uncle San
1952–2023



suffering produces endurance...
endurance produces character...
character produces **hope**...

Rom. 5:3-4

suffering produces endurance...
endurance produces character...
character produces **hope**...

Rom. 5:3-4

My power is made perfect in *weakness*...

2 Cor. 12:9



carrying **hope**
... **Christ** *in me*



Luke 1:39–40

³⁹ At that time **Mary got ready and hurried** to a town in the hill country **Judea,** ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.



Luke 1:31–33

³¹ **You will conceive and give birth to a son,** and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called **the Son of the Most High.** The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."



Luke 1:36–37

³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

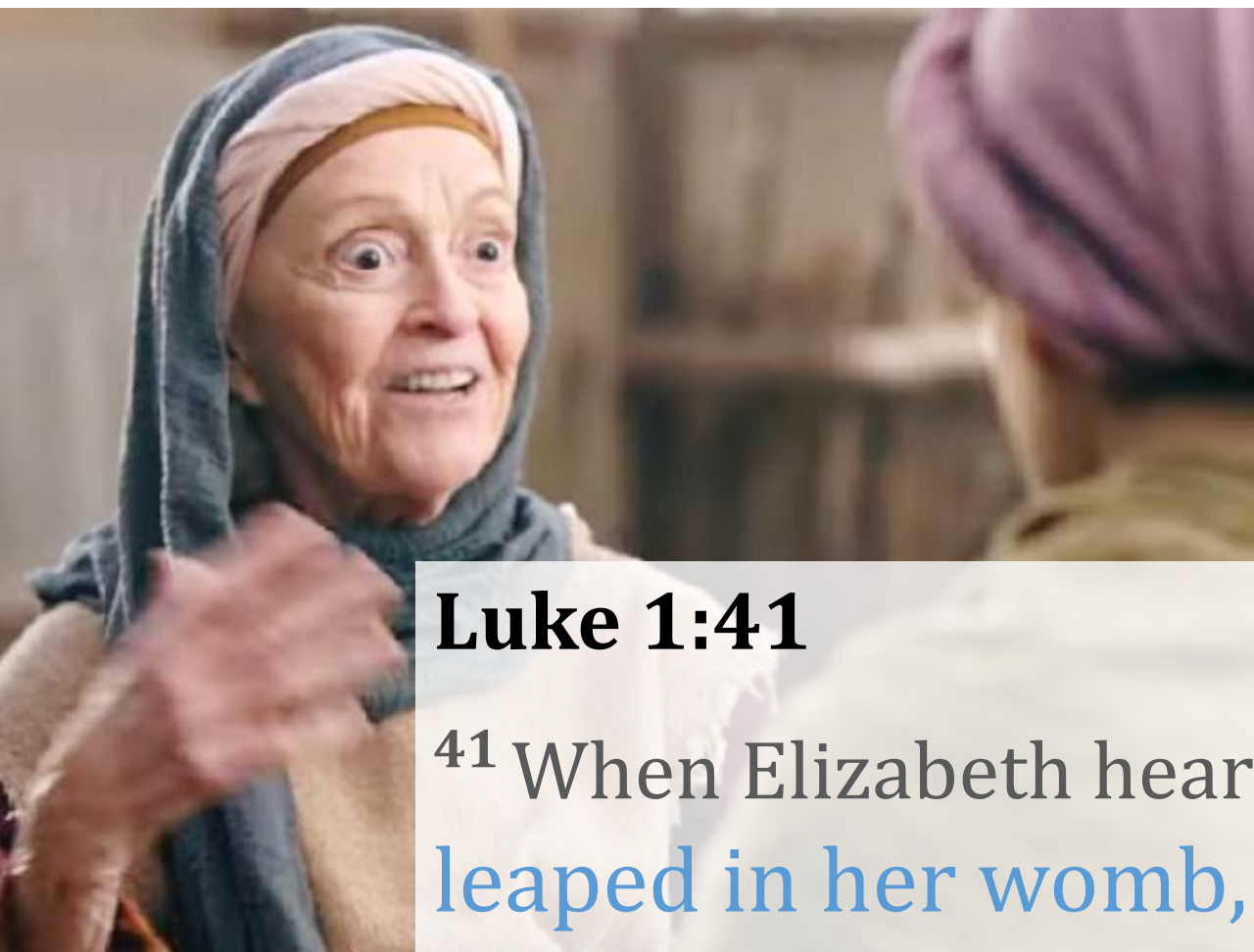
³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”



Luke 1:39–40

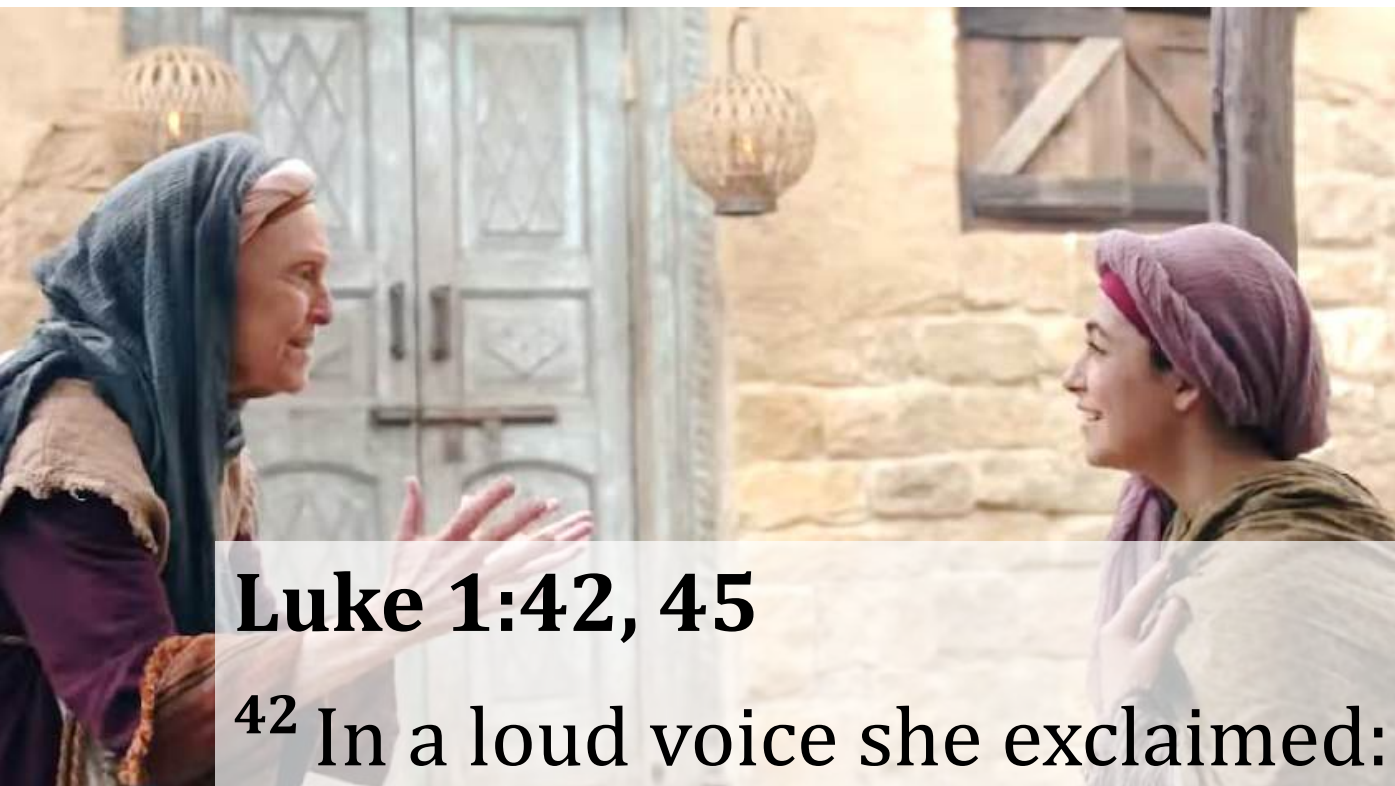
³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country Judea,

⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and **greeted Elizabeth.**



Luke 1:41

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, **the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.**



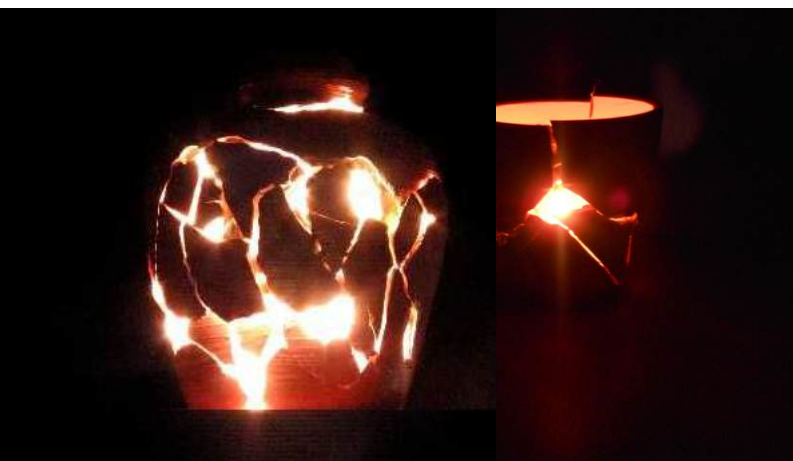
Luke 1:42, 45

⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!...

⁴⁵ **Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”**



carrying hope
... **Christ** *in me*



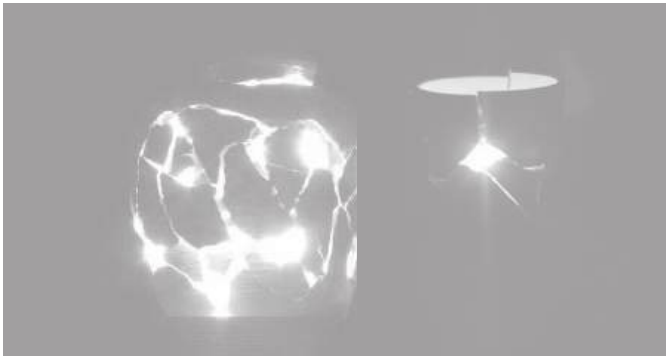
recognizing hope
... **Christ** *in you*

Luke 1:56

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.



carrying hope
... **Christ** *in me*



recognizing hope
... **Christ** *in you*



journeying together in hope
... **Christ** *in us*



we cannot hope in Christ alone
we hope in Christ *together*

Thomas Aquinas

None of us can hope alone. We need **companions in hope**. This is why **hope is connected to friendship and community** and is impossible without them...

Paul Wadell

None of us can make our way alone on the journey to God's kingdom without getting sidetracked, even lost. We are bound to lose our way in discouragement and disappointment if there are not **others journeying with us** who remind us where we are going and help us along the way...

Paul Wadell

we cannot sustain hope by ourselves because
hope is a shared virtue... a partnership
believers have with one another in Christ.

Paul Wadell

A dark, foggy street at night. A row of street lamps on the right side of the road is illuminated, casting a warm glow. The street is cobblestone and the fog is thick, obscuring the background. A building with a lit doorway is visible on the right.

Robert Louis Stevenson

“punch holes in the darkness”

Robert Louis Stevenson



Matt. 5:14–15

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Luke 1:46–55

Mary's Song

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul **glorifies the Lord**

⁴⁷ and my spirit **rejoices in God my Savior,**

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of the humble state of his servant.

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Luke 1:46-55

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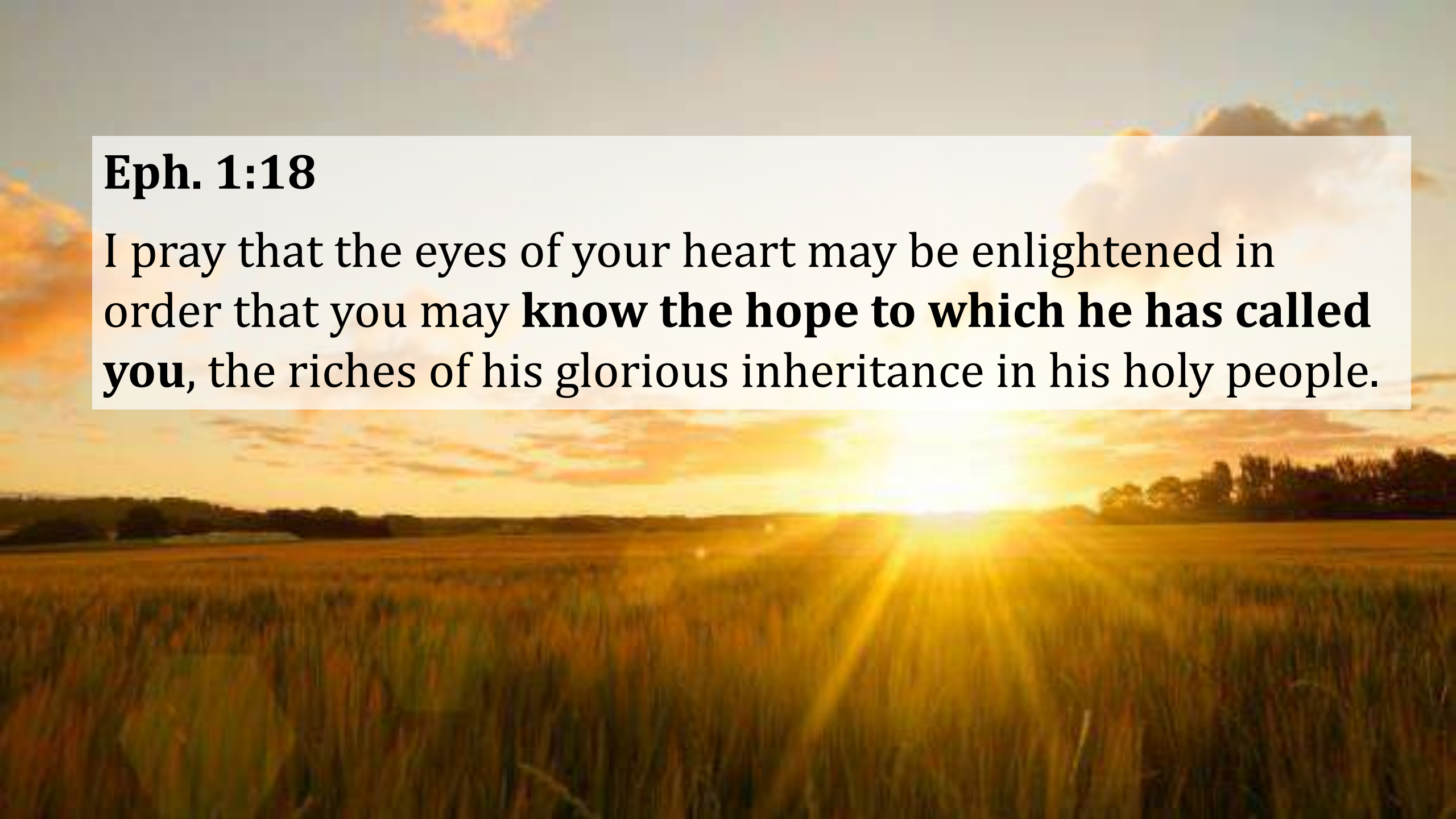






Eph. 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may **know the hope to which he has called you**, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.



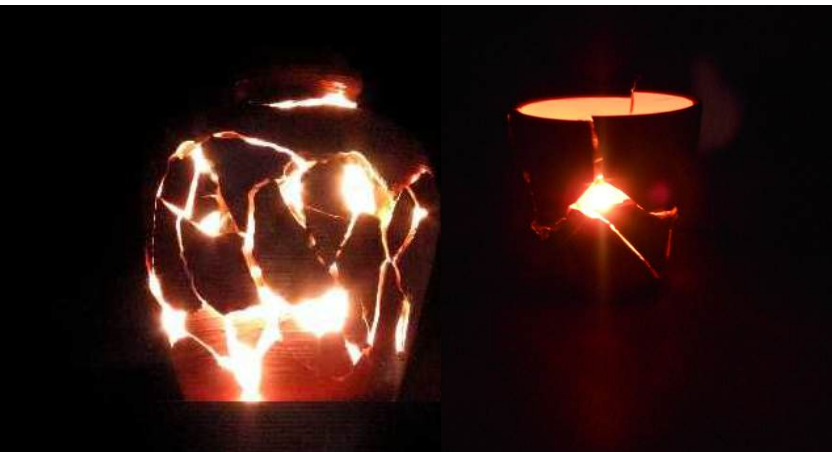


Rom. 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit...**



carrying **hope**
... **Christ** *in me*



recognizing **hope**
... **Christ** *in you*



journeying together in **hope**
... **Christ** *in us*