

Hope

"I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future with hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

Hope—In Hebrew, the root word is *gawa*. It means to wait with eager expectation. It is sometimes translated into English as "wait" instead of "hope." Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. There is an unshakeable ground to our hope that guarantees its fulfillment. We can wait confidently because we trust in the God of the universe. He will act on our behalf just as He has acted on our behalf in the past.

Look at this verse once again. God's new ideas about you dominate the verse. Four times the word for "plans" is use (that's right, four times, not three the word "have" in English is really the same word for "plan" "I know the plans I plan for you.") These plans are about good things God has in mind. These plans give you a future that you are backing into. And that is the reason for hope. You have a history with God. Your own past is a sign of His care, deliverance and interaction with you. This history extends from you through every past believer back to the beginning when God thought about His purposes for us. What can there possibly be to fear? God knows what He is doing; therefore my confident expectation (hope) is in the Lord.

Trust and hope go hand in hand. Trust produces hope. Hope provides a reason to trust. And always the foundation is the unwavering word of God.

Does your future look bright with new ideas from God? Are you walking backwards, your eyes firmly fixed on God's demonstration of care in the past? Are you eagerly anticipating His decisive acts yet to come? The Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, is your guide. Let yourself go. He knows where you are headed.