

C. The Lord's Promise is Our Hope

1. The predictive Scriptures look well beyond our age, especially those of the New Testament as they center around our Lord Jesus Christ and His promised coming. But many of the Old Testament words of prophecy looked to a coming of the Messiah which was fulfilled in the New Testament. By seeing how this promise was the hope of those who looked for help in the Old Testament, we have almost a direct parallel for our own circumstances and setting in this day and time.

We desperately need such a word for at many times our world looks "hopeless". While I am not a notable pessimist, reform in government, correction of public abuse, proclamation of truth in the church, national health and interest...etc., almost seem like lost causes and one can be quickly made to feel that there is "no hope". While the believer has many responsibilities to perform in these areas, it is true that his hope is not in his skill to do these things, but in the Lord's promise. Isaiah 7 offers a brilliant example of that.

2. In order that we do not become mere wishful thinkers, it is interesting to see how it is that the Lord's promise is, or becomes, our hope. We are able to track this out in a few simple steps...against the background of Isaiah 7...which you (the listener) should remember by this time:

a. The Lord's Promise is confirmed in the fulfillment of prediction.

We have noted these predictions earlier in our study. As each comes to pass it certifies the reality of the entire matter. When God promises a Messiah who will be "God with us"..the reality is seen in the fulfillment of the prior prophecies. We have not believed "cunningly devised fables" as Peter might say...but have followed a sure word. We can read in the sacred text how that which God spoke came to pass and in it we see the confirmation of our