

Study Guide: *Knowing the God of Hope*

Introduction

Brief Intro to the Book of Romans:

Early in 57 AD. Paul wrote to a Christian Community in Rome that was well established (by 50AD)¹.

Paul wanted to visit them for many years (Rom. 1:10; 15:23). A community of Jews and Gentiles.

Claudius' Edict of 49 AD the Jews were expelled so the Christian community in Rome would have become more Gentile than Jew. When Claudius died in 54 AD Jews would have returned to Rome. This could have likely produced tensions within the Roman Christian Communities between Jewish and Gentile background believers.

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.*

May the God of hope... KNOWING THE GOD OF HOPE

I. WHAT: What is Hope?

OT

1. Hope; in the OT the word Hope is related to the word “**wait**”

Is. 40:31 *but those who **hope** in the LORD will renew their strength.* (NIV)

Is. 40:31 *But they that **wait** upon the LORD shall renew their strength;* (KJV)

Hebrew: *Qawah:* “wait, or look eagerly, for” [BDB]

See also: Psa. 25:3

2. Hope: *waiting, in the sense of having an expectant attitude, to look and wait eagerly for*

Psa. 62:5 *My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my **expectation** is from him.* (KJV)

Psa. 62:5 *my **hope** (Hebrew: qawah) comes from him.* (NIV)

- **Hope is not wishful thinking**
- **Hope is not blind (empty) optimism**

3. Hope/Waiting on God: A Lesson from Creation

All of Creation waits on God

Psa. 104:21 *The lions roar for their prey and **seek** their food from God.*

Psa. 104:27 *These all **look to** you to give them their food at the proper time.*

Psa. 145:15 *The eyes of all **wait upon** thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.*

Hebrew (shabar): wait, hope [BDB]²

Psa. 145:16 *You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

¹ Socially significant enough by 49AD to cause “constant disturbances” in the Jewish community and by 64 AD Suetonius would describe the Christian Community as “new sect,” Suetonius, *Nero*, 16:2.

² BDB- Brown, Driver, Briggs, Hebrew Lexicon of the Old Testament.

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NT

Hope (*elpis*): “Looking forward to something with some reason for confidence respecting fulfillment” [BDAG]³

SUMMARY: *Hope is a firm (unmovable) expectation based on certain knowledge*
Isa. 5:2

II. WHO: Who is the God of Hope.

1. He is Sovereign

1 Chr. 29:11-13

1Chr. 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

1Chr. 29:12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

1Chr. 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

God is Creator, Owner and Ruler of All

All Power

All Authority to use that power belongs to Him

(1) Pro. 21:30 *there is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.*

(2) Isa. 14:24, 27 *For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?*

(3) Ps.115:3 *Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.*

• Sovereignty for Me also means- He will perfect what concerns me,

Psa. 138:8 *The LORD will fulfill [his purpose] for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.*

• In the NT: Hope is focused on the “universal, kingly rule of God”⁴ not on individual blessing. **1 Cor. 15:24-28.**

2. He is Love

Hesed: His loyal or faithful love; lovingkindness, unfailing love

Love: **1 Jn. 4:8** God is love. *Love gives its best for the best of another*, **John 3:16; 1 Jn. 3:1**

Faithfulness /Truth: Faithful, He is perfectly dependable, He always acts consistent with Who He is, He is always faithful to Himself (Holy, Righteous, Just, Merciful, etc.), His Word/ Promises

Lam. 3:22-23 Because of the LORD’s Great Love (*hesed*)

*Because of the LORD’S **great love** (*hesed*) we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.*

*They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (*emunah*)- Amen!*

3. He is Wise, Rom. 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

He knows what is best and he knows the best way to accomplish it.

³ BDAG: Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich, *A Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.*

⁴ NIDNTT, vol. 2, 242, ἐλπίς.

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Summary: God is the Source of Our Hope and the object of Our Hope because of Who He is!

Sovereign: He has the power to do whatever He wills, and no one / nothing can stop Him

Love (Hesed): Love gives its best for the best of another

Wise: He know what is best and the best way to accomplish it

III. HOW: How does Knowing the God of Hope Make a Difference?

Heb. 6:19-20 *Hope Gives Us an Anchor*

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf....

1 Tim. 1:1 Jesus is our Hope

Knowing the God of Hope Makes a Difference: Responding to the Disciplines of God
The Disciplines of God Heb. 12:5-6; Deut. 8:1-5⁵

Heb. 12:5 *And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,*

Heb. 12:6 *because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."*

Discipline of Disillusionment

"Dis"- removal "Illusion"- "an erroneous perception of reality"⁶

- **Psa. 103:7** *He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:*
- **Psa. 95:10** *For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways."*

- Disillusionment is NOT all bad!
 - Expectation
 - Reality
 - Disillusionment grows in the gap between expectation and reality

- **Isa. 55:9/Ps. 95:10**- Are we coming to know God's ways?

Discipline of Delay

- Two of our biggest cultural values are Production and Efficiency.

- God is a God of PROCESS

- "Wait" is not a bad Word.

Discipline of Disparity

⁵ Seven Disciplines of God: 1. Disappointment, 2. Disillusionment, 3. Disturbance, 4. Delay, 5. Darkness, 6. Death, 7. Disparity

⁶William Morris, ed., *American Heritage Dictionary* (Boston: American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., and Houghton Mifflin Co., 1975), 656.

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Inequality: *God is not equal in his dealings with us*

Illustration: Mrs. James & Mrs. Peter

Inequalities: Performance (Abilities, talents); Appearance; Status (\$, possessions, net worth); Family, Marriage, children, singleness, Work, ministry, Success

The Danger of Comparison in the Kingdom of God

- Comparing ourselves to one another is dangerous because it causes us to focus on the wrong object.

- **1 Pet. 1:6-7; Rom. 8:18 Job 23:10 2 Cor. 4:17-18**

- God is producing glory to himself through the very trials of our lives.

IV. Conclusion

1. Summary

What is Hope?

Who is the God of Hope?

How does Knowing God help?