



**The Wheel of Faith
Bible Study Guides
Lesson #1
“Ezekiel’s Child”**

Hope is a powerful little word. It is simply defined as *“a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.”*

Therefore, we could say that the world is full of hopeful people. Everyone I know is hoping for something to happen in their lives. But the word **hope** serves us up a dark side as well. **Hope** as the world knows is little more than wishful thinking. The common person hopes, but his hope has no ground beneath his feet. It is simply based upon what he or she desires from the circumstances of life; and since the planet is filled with billions of other people hoping away with you, what chance is there really of ever having our hopes materialize?

However, and fortunately, for us the Bible offers a very different take on the word **hope**.

1. Read Colossians 1:23 (NKJV)

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the _____, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I, Paul am made a minister

- What word is intimately connected with the word **hope**? _____

The Gospel is God's way of assuring us that our hope is not based on the shifting sands of human possibilities.

Thought question: Why do you think the Gospel can offer us something to hope for?

The Gospel is primarily thought of as the mechanism whereby God gets us to Heaven; however, the Gospel offers us much more in terms of our needs today. The Gospel is here to help us navigate the particular difficulties of living in a sin-ravaged world. Thus, it is worthy of our time to take another look at the Gospel message and plummet the depths of its potential to give us a rock-solid hope in tomorrow.

2. We are now going to turn to the Old Testament to discover what is the first step in the Gospel.

Background to our story:

The children of Israel were the chosen people of God, and God had promised to save them if they would live up to the conditions set forth by Him. These conditions and promises were what was called the Covenant. It was a deal between God and his people. If they accepted the terms of this covenant then God would be their God, and they would be his people, but they must always remain faithful to the terms of the covenant.

The terms were

- *to obey the Lord*
- *keep his commandments and*
- *to love the Lord with all their heart.*

The penalty for breaking his covenant would be

- *exile from the promised Land,*
- *destruction of their city, and*
- *they would become slaves to their conquerors.*

Unfortunately, the children of Israel broke the covenant, and continued to live in disobedience to God for nearly 1000 years. Therefore, the time had come for God to finally allow the children of Israel to suffer the consequences of their millennia long rebellion. But before they were to be carted off into captivity, lose their city, freedom and homeland, God raised up a prophet named **Ezekiel** to give them a very special message.

a. Read Ezekiel 16: 1-5

- What is God saying to his people?
- Is God describing the condition of his people?

Look at verse five: *“No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were _____ on the day you were born.”*

- How does this word reflect the condition of the people?
- How might this word reflect the condition of people today?
- How might this word reflect your condition?

b. What does Isaiah 64:6 say about his people 150 years earlier?

*“But we are all like an _____ thing,
And all our righteousnesses are like _____ rags;
We _____ fade as a leaf,
And our _____, like the wind,
Have taken us away.”*

- How might these texts be true of our own condition before God?

3. The first central theme of this parable is that Man from the Garden of Eden, after we first sinned, and down through the ages, is in his natural state in rebellion against God. Our very natures are corrupt and broken. Yet despite this, God still chose to deliver mankind from his hopeless condition

- Read **Ezekiel 16:6**. What does God say to this child? _____!

a. Why does God want us to live? Read **Ezekiel 16:8**

“When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of _____; so I spread ^lMy wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became _____,” says the Lord God.”

Despite what we are, or what we have done in our lives, the message of God has always been, “*I love you*”, and “*You are mine*”. In fact, the point of the first five verses is not to discourage God’s people, or to make them feel bad; but rather it is for them to see the true feelings of God towards them. The only way to see God in His truest light is to see ourselves first in our truest light.

- Can you recall a situation in your life when you treated someone wrong, and yet they demonstrated love towards you?
- How did that impact you towards them?
- Do you see what God is trying to get his people to understand?
- Do you see what God may be trying to help you understand?

4. God wants to do more for us than just love us. He also wants to bring us happiness, joy, contentment, and goodness today. How do you see that reflected in **Ezekiel 16:9-14**?

- It would be well for us to remember that this is a parable, and the language is a metaphorical representation of the good things that God wants to do for us.

- **Discuss** what good things do you wish for God to do for you today?

a. Compare Ezekiel 16:1-14 to John 3:16.

- Do you see the truth about what you are, and what God feels towards you?
- Read **Ezekiel 16:8** aloud and put your name in the blank.

“When I passed by _____ again and looked upon _____, indeed _____ time was the time of love; so I spread ^lMy wing over _____ and covered _____ nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with _____, and _____ became Mine,” says the Lord God.”

- Read **John 3:16** aloud and put your name in the blank.

“For God so loved _____ That he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

In the book **Steps to Christ** the last paragraph of chapter one makes this profound statement:

“Such love is without a parallel. Children of the heavenly King! Theme for the most profound meditation! THE MATCHLESS LOVE OF GOD for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God”

c. In light of the great love of God for you, discuss the following questions from the above quote out of Steps to Christ.

- Discuss: how does this thought have a subduing power over the soul?
- Discuss: How do you think the mind is brought into captivity to the will of God because of God’s love for you?

Appeal Thought

If God “so loves you” despite whatever we have done, or who we are, can we put our hopes in Him?

Because He loves us, can we trust in His Gospel to save us?

Can we trust in His plan for our lives today?