

God Redeemed Us to Dwell with Him

What is the greatest blessing of the Christian life?

- Forgiveness
- Heaven
- Being saved from punishment
- Justification by faith
- Hope
- something else?

Old Testament hopes

Isaiah's gospel (good news)

You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
¹⁰ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:
he gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.
(Is 40:9-11)

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
'Your God reigns!'
⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the Lord returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.
⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
(Is 52:7-9)

Ezekiel – Spirit and Temple

Then they will know that I am the Lord their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. ²⁹ I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the people of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord.
(Ezek 39:28-29 – leading into Ezek ch40-48 New Temple)

Jeremiah – It's all about relationship (covenant)

I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. ³⁸ They will be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul. (Jer 32:38-41)

Jesus our Immanuel

'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). (Matt 1:23)

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matt 28:20)

Jesus brings the new Exodus / return from exile

Jesus's death

Jesus goes _____ and _____

We _____ and _____

The Holy Spirit

Another comforter

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever - ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:16-18)

Pentecost: God dwells in the church

New Creation – we will be with the Lord forever

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. (Rev 22:1-5 ESV)