

Hope and a Future (Part 1)

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I. Introduction

II. The Future Is Uncertain.

Proverbs 27:1 (NLT) *Don't brag about tomorrow, since you don't know what the day will bring.*

Matthew 6:34 (NLT) *"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."*

"The only thing constant is change." (Heraclitus)

III. God Never Changes.

Psalm 102:1-2 (NLT) ¹*LORD, hear my prayer! Listen to my plea!* ²*Don't turn away from me in my time of distress. Bend down to listen, and answer me quickly when I call to you.*

Psalm 102:25-27 (NLT) ²⁵*Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands.* ²⁶*They will perish, but you remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment and discard them.* ²⁷*But you are always the same; you will live forever.*

Malachi 3:6a (NLT) *"I am the LORD, and I do not change."*

James 1:17 (NLT) *Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.*

1 Samuel 15:29 (NLT) *"And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!"*

IV. Remember That God Is Good.

Psalm 100:5 (NLT) *For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.*

Exodus 3:9-10 (NLT) ⁹*"Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them.* ¹⁰*Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."*

Exodus 14:31 (NLT) *When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the LORD had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They put their faith in the LORD and in his servant Moses.*

Exodus 32:2-4 (NLT) ²*So Aaron said, "Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters, and bring them to me."* ³*All the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron.* ⁴*Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, "O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!"*

Exodus 32:5-6 (NLT) ⁵*Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf. Then he announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the LORD!"* ⁶*The people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.*

Psalm 106:19-22 (NLT) ¹⁹The people made a calf at Mount Sinai; they bowed before an image made of gold. ²⁰They traded their glorious God for a statue of a grass-eating bull. ²¹They forgot God, their savior, who had done such great things in Egypt—²²such wonderful things in the land of Ham, such awesome deeds at the Red Sea.

Exodus 32:24 (NLT) “So I told them, ‘Whoever has gold jewelry, take it off.’ When they brought it to me, I simply threw it into the fire—and out came this calf!”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Psalm 33:11 (NLT) But the LORD’s plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

V. Ask Yourself: What Is My Center?

Reflect. Confess. Worship.