



God's Story Gives Me Hope for the Future July 24-25, 2021

Isaiah – (740-681 BC) Prophet who warned of the Babylonian captivity and prophesied the life of Jesus. 129 prophecies about the birth, life, and death of Jesus.

Jeremiah – (626-585 BC) Warned of the Babylonian captivity and witnessed it.

Lamentations – Jeremiah's grief and sorrow at the demise of Israel.

Ezekiel – (Written around 597 BC) Also saw the impending doom and judgement of Israel and witnessed the future battle that will take place on earth.

Daniel – (Written around 530 BC) prophesized the future destruction of Israel and served as the lead advisor and friend to three powerful dictators. Daniel proved that you do not have to compromise your integrity to lead great rulers in a godless society.

Hope: the assurance that what God has said will happen.

God's Story Gives Me Hope for the Future When I:

1 Place my trust in God's finished work of Salvation.

Isaiah 40:1, 2a-4 (NLT)

"Comfort, comfort my people," says your God. "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Tell her that her sad days are gone and her sins are pardoned... "Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, "Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God! Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills. Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places."

Isaiah 40:31 (NLT)

But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

- **Trust in Jesus for my salvation.**

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NLT)

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

- **Trust in Jesus for my deliverance.**

Isaiah 64:4 (NLT)

For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!

Psalms 37:39-40 (TPT)

But the Lord will be the Savior of all who love him. Even in their time of trouble, God will live in them as strength. Because of their faith in him, their daily portion will be a Father's help and deliverance from evil. This is true for all who turn to hide themselves in him!

2

Pursue God's purposes relentlessly, whether I am successful or not.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 (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. In those days when you pray, I will listen."

- **Glorify God in everything I do.**

Daniel 1:8, 19 (NLT)

But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. ... The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service.

- **Build relationships with likeminded believers.**

Daniel 2:18 (NLT)

He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon.

- **Act more and more like Jesus every day.**

Daniel 3:16-18, 25 (NLT)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that

we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” ... “Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!”

- **Care for others the way Jesus did.**

Daniel 4:27 (NLT)

“King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper.”

- **Express the good news about God’s grace.**

Daniel 6:25-27 (NLT)

Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: “Peace and prosperity to you! “I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

3

Pray and prepare for the future return of Christ.

Ezekiel 43:7 (NLT)

The LORD said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place where I will rest my feet. I will live here forever among the people of Israel.”

Revelation 1:7 (NLT)

Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him—even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!

- **Pray for everyone to come to faith in Christ.**

Lamentations 3:22-26 (NLT)

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, “The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!” The LORD is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD.

- **Prepare my life for the moment I see Jesus face-to-face.**

Lamentations 5:21 (NLT)

Restore us, O LORD, and bring us back to you again! Give us back the joys we once had!

2 Timothy 3:15 (TPT)

You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

Memory Verse for July, 2021

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.



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