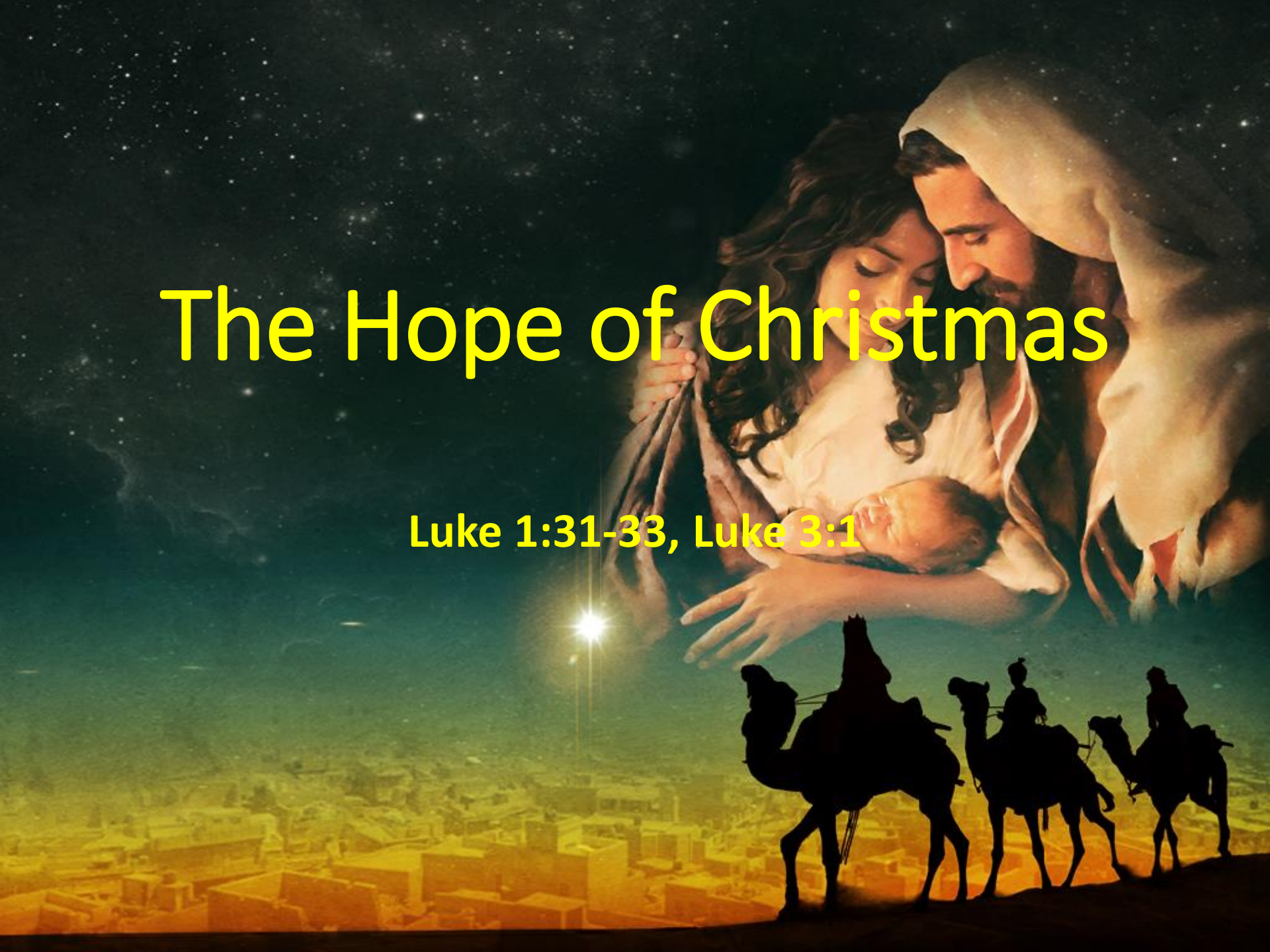


The Hope of Christmas

Luke 1:31-33, Luke 3:1



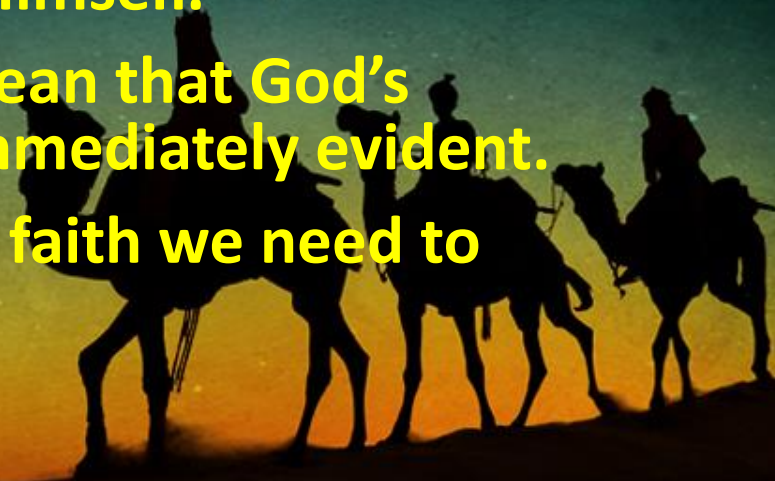
Hope

- Christianity is a religion of hope.
- Our faith is a future-focused faith, a religion of what is to come, a religion of hope.
- Our focus is on the world to come, yet it's our future focus that allows us to live this life to the fullest.
- Hope is not automatic, because sometimes hope is very difficult.



Put Your Hope In God

- We must put our hope in God and trust in Him for help.
- Most of the time we try everything we can think of, and then if nothing works, we think of praying.
- When we place our hope in God, it pleases Him.
- Our hope should not be in what we hope God will do, but our hope should be in God Himself.
- Putting hope in God does not mean that God's goodness and wisdom will be immediately evident.
- We have to go to God to get the faith we need to place our hope in Him.



Think On God's Promises

- One way to develop an attitude of hope is to read the Bible and think about all the promises of God.
- The more we focus on the blessings and glory of the life to come, the less burdensome our current problems will seem.
- Paul considered his own sufferings to be “light and momentary.”
- We think too much of our current problems instead of what God has in store for us.



Conclusion

- The basis for our hope is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God whose birth we celebrate this season.
- Do you know Him?
- Have you placed your trust in Him?
- Are you trusting in Him right now?

