

IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR



IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR



IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*unexpected...*



IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*unexpected...*

*Wonder*





IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*desperate for...*

*Wonder*



IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*desperate for...*



IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*not mentioned...*





IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*not mentioned...*





IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*the pinnacle...*



IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*the pinnacle...*



IT'S THE MOST  
*Full*  
TIME OF THE YEAR

*not mentioned...*





IT'S THE MOST  
*Hopeful*  
TIME OF THE YEAR







*Hope*

**Not listed as one of the fruits of the Spirit:**

The fruit of the Spirit is  
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;  
against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

*Hope*

It is listed as one of three enduring qualities:

Love never ends.

As for prophecies, they will pass away;  
as for tongues, they will cease;  
as for knowledge, it will pass away.

I Corinthians 13:8-13

*Hope*

It is listed as one of three enduring qualities:

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes the partial will pass away.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child,  
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

I Corinthians 13:8-13

*Hope*



It is listed as one of three enduring qualities:

When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

I Corinthians 13:8-13

*Hope*

It is listed as one of three enduring qualities:

So now faith, hope and love abide, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:8-13

*Hope*

*What is it?*

*Hope*

# *What is it?*

**Verb**: to cherish a desire with anticipation;  
to want something to be true...

*Hope*



# *What is it?*

**Verb**: to cherish a desire with anticipation;  
to want something to be true...

*...usually based on circumstances  
outside your control.*

# Hope

# *What is it?*

**Noun**: desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment;  
someone or something on which hopes are centered...

# Hope

# *What is it?*

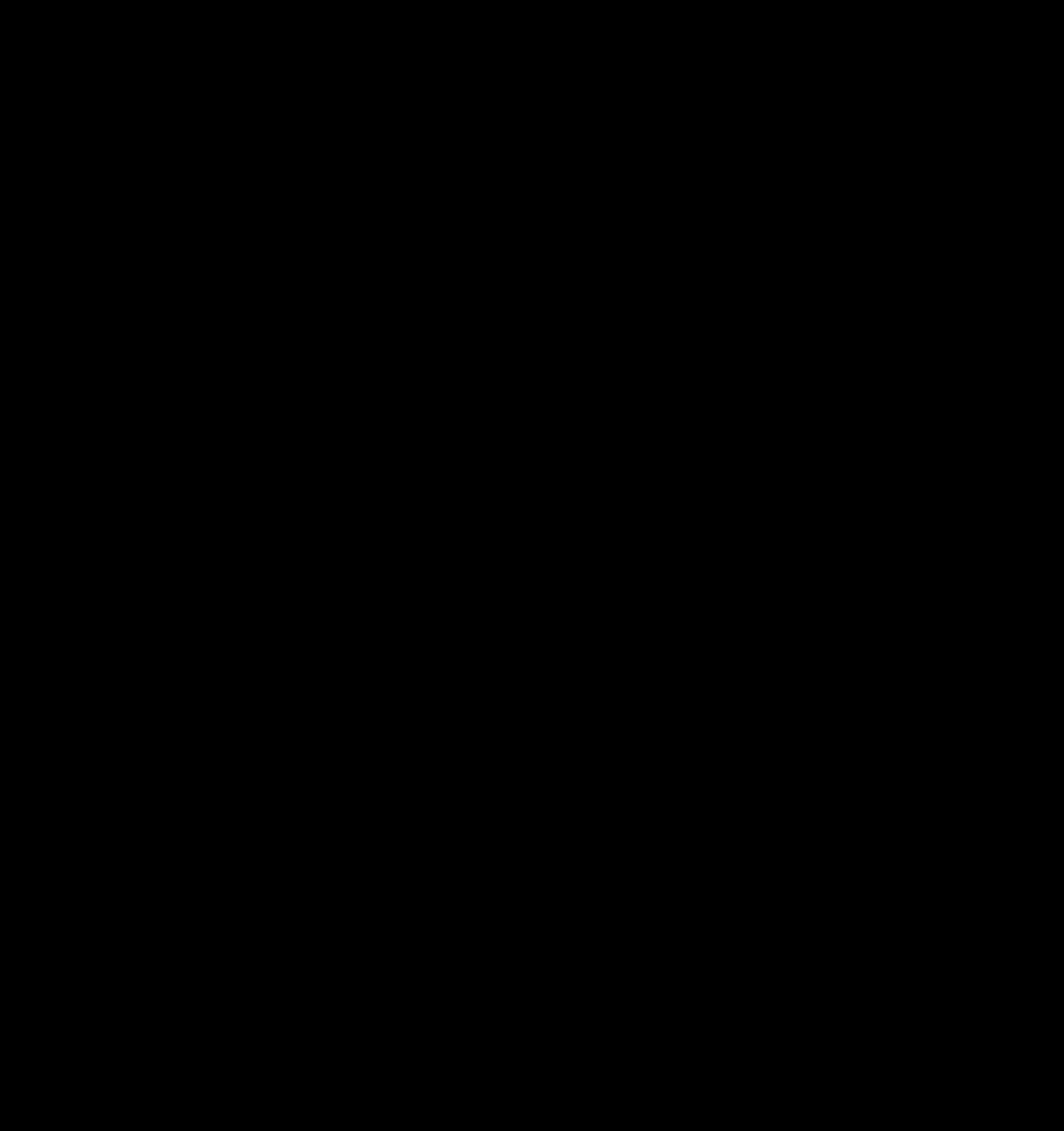
**Noun**: desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment;  
someone or something on which hopes are centered...

*...usually based on the proven character  
of a person or object.*

# Hope











The expectation  
of what is sure or certain.

*Hope*



*Faith*

The expectation  
of '*what*' is true  
based on the reliability  
in the past.

*Faith*

*Hope*

The expectation  
of '*who*' is true  
and their reliability  
now and in the future.

*Hope*



O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things too great and too  
marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted by soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
like a weaned child in my soul within me.

O Israel, **hope in the Lord** from this time forth and  
forevermore.

PSALM 131

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
His mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

24 “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will **hope in Him.**”

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to  
the soul who seeks Him.

Lamentations 3:22-25

- 8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
- 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."
- 10 And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people."
- 11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol Him."
- 12 And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles, in Him will the Gentiles hope."

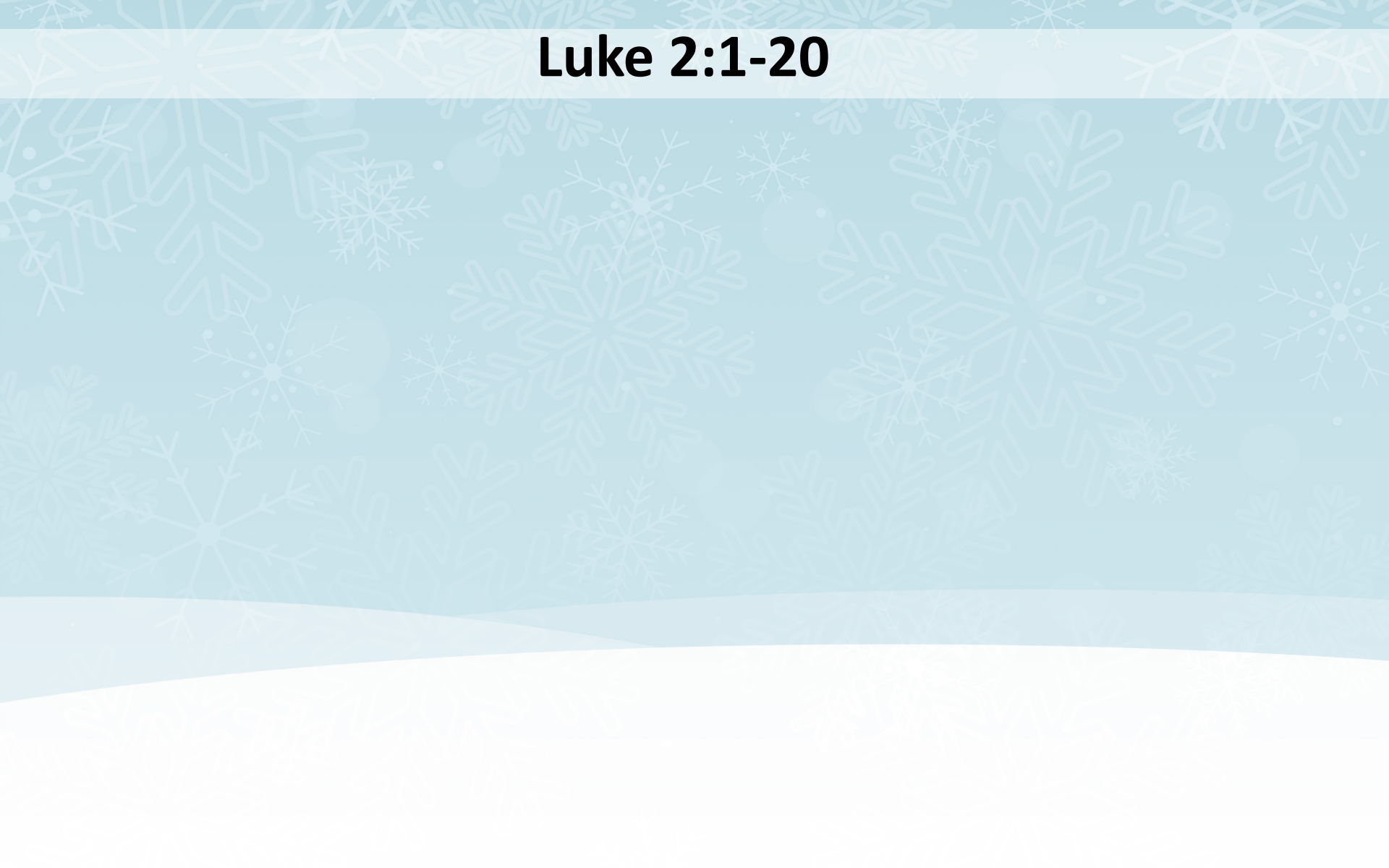
ROMANS 15:8-13



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ROMANS 15:8-13

# Luke 2:1-20





## Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

- 1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town.
- 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
- 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

## **Luke 2:1-7** *The birth of Jesus*

- 6 And while they were there,  
the time came for her to give birth.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped  
Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger,  
because there was not room for them in the inn.

## Luke 2:8-20 *Shepherds and Angels*

- 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.
- 10 And the angel said to them,  
*“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*
- 11 *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*



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## **Luke 2:8-20** *Shepherds and Angels*

- 12 And this will be a sign for you;  
you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling  
cloths and lying in a manger”.
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of  
the heavenly host praising God and saying,
- 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace  
among those with whom He is pleased!”
- 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the  
shepherds said to one another,  
“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has  
happened which the Lord has made known to us.



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## **Luke 2:8-20** *Shepherds and Angels*

- 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.
- 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.
- 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
- 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.
- 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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*Hope*

Wonder .....(*astonishment*)

*Hope*

Wonder .....(*astonishment*)

Treasure .....(*unspeakable value*)

Hope

**Wonder** .....(*astonishment*)

**Treasure** .....(*unspeakable value*)

**Ponder** .....(*gaining a broader perspective*)

**Hope**



**Wonder** .....(*astonishment*)

**Treasure** .....(*unspeakable value*)

**Ponder** .....(*gaining a broader perspective*)

**Glorify** .....(*lift up above everything else*)

*Hope*

**Wonder** .....(*astonishment*)

**Treasure** .....(*unspeakable value*)

**Ponder** .....(*gaining a broader perspective*)

**Glorify** .....(*lift up above everything else*)

**Praise** .....(*personally engage in worship*)

*Hope*

**Wonder** .....(*astonishment*)

**Treasure** .....(*unspeakable value*)

**Ponder** .....(*gaining a broader perspective*)

**Glorify** .....(*lift up above everything else*)

**Praise** .....(*personally engage in worship*)

***The trust that envelops the heart and the soul.***

***Hope***

So.....therefore.....what now?

What are you hoping for this Christmas?

*Hope*



So.....therefore.....what now?

What are you hoping for this Christmas?

Are you willing to mix together....

...astonishment...

...valuing the transcendent...

...long term perspective...

...the majesty of God...

...engaging your heart...

*Hope*







13 May the **God of hope** fill you with  
all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
you may abound in hope.

ROMANS 15:8-13