

The Christian Hope



Promises Promises!

“His word is his bond”?

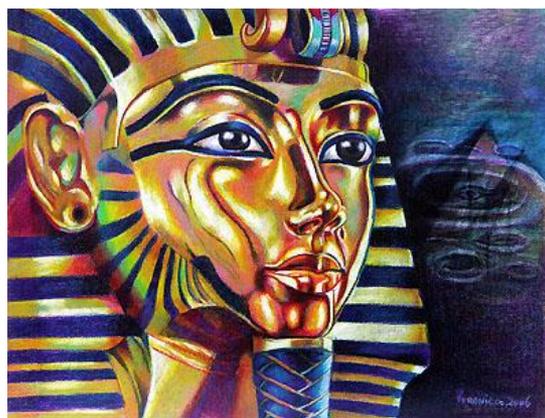
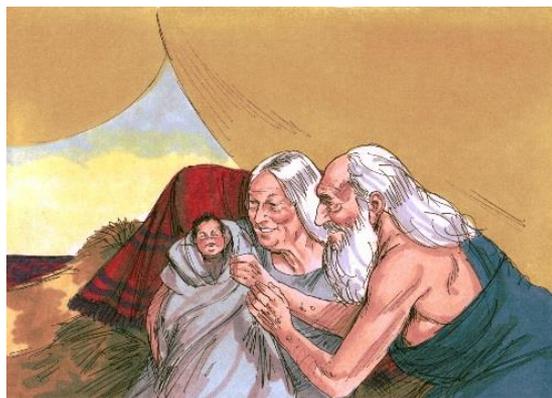
.... Not any more!



*Everything has changed
... Or has it?*

NOT everything has changed

Not every promise maker
breaks his promises



His Word is His bond

*Sarah laughed, Israel threw insults,
the prophets didn't understand ...
... but God kept his promise*

Christian Hope

- Enduring confidence in the promises of God
- Trusting that God will do what he has always done ... (so this is not new!)

These ancient promises are given to US



“hope” is a strange word

“In the factory we make cosmetics, but in the store we sell hope!”

Charles Revson
Founder, Revlon



“Christians do not live in the hope that something might happen. We live in the certainty that something happened, on a hill ... And it changed ... everything”

Peter Meadows

So it's not about being hopeful

Enduring confidence in the promises of God – *What promises?*

- ✓ Our relationship with God is made right
- ✓ That God's Kingdom starts here and now .. And goes on forever
- ✓ To come and live in the life of any believer who puts their trust in him



The Christian Hope

How is this Hope achieved?

**The Christian Hope is
founded in the disturbing
events of a single weekend**



We had better know about this man

- Jesus was a man:
 - He had a poor home and a family
 - He ate, drank and socialised
 - He wept and grew angry
- And yet:
 - He could “re-set” the laws of nature
 - He made people better
 - He taught in a new way
- But on the Friday ... all this was irrelevant



We prefer a clean Gospel

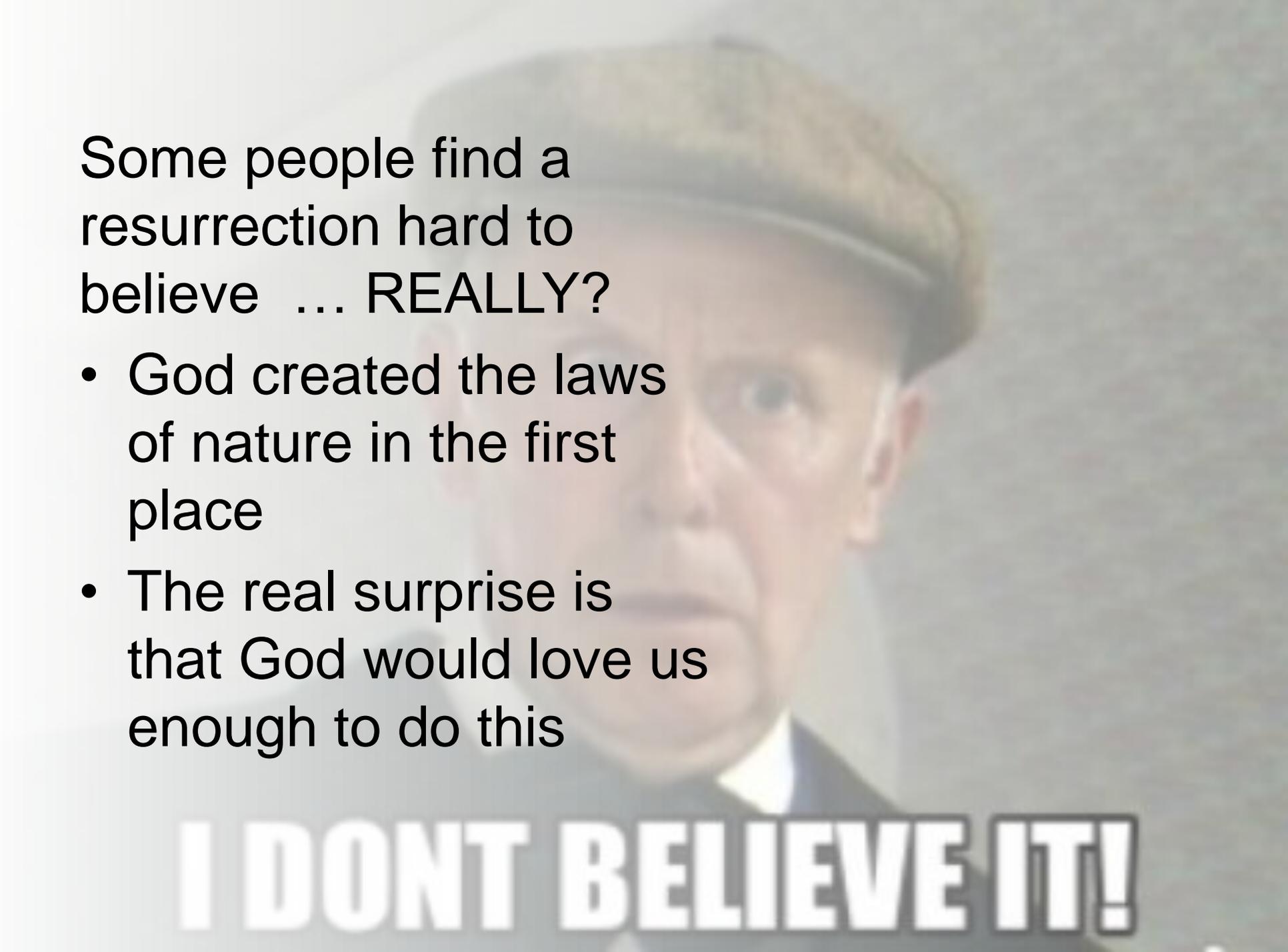
- But the horror of the cross as an instrument of torture and execution is real ...
- At the precise moment that Jesus breathes his last ... the hopes of creation are fulfilled
- ... and God keeps the most shocking promise he ever made

“Enduring confidence in the promises of God”



It's Friday ... *but Sunday's coming!!*

- Things moved slowly at first but as dawn breaks on that first Easter morning ...
- The audacity of God's plan... the one who could reconfigure the laws of nature And the shocking extent of God's love for his people... all became apparent
- Even angels didn't get this!



Some people find a resurrection hard to believe ... REALLY?

- God created the laws of nature in the first place
- The real surprise is that God would love us enough to do this

I DONT BELIEVE IT!

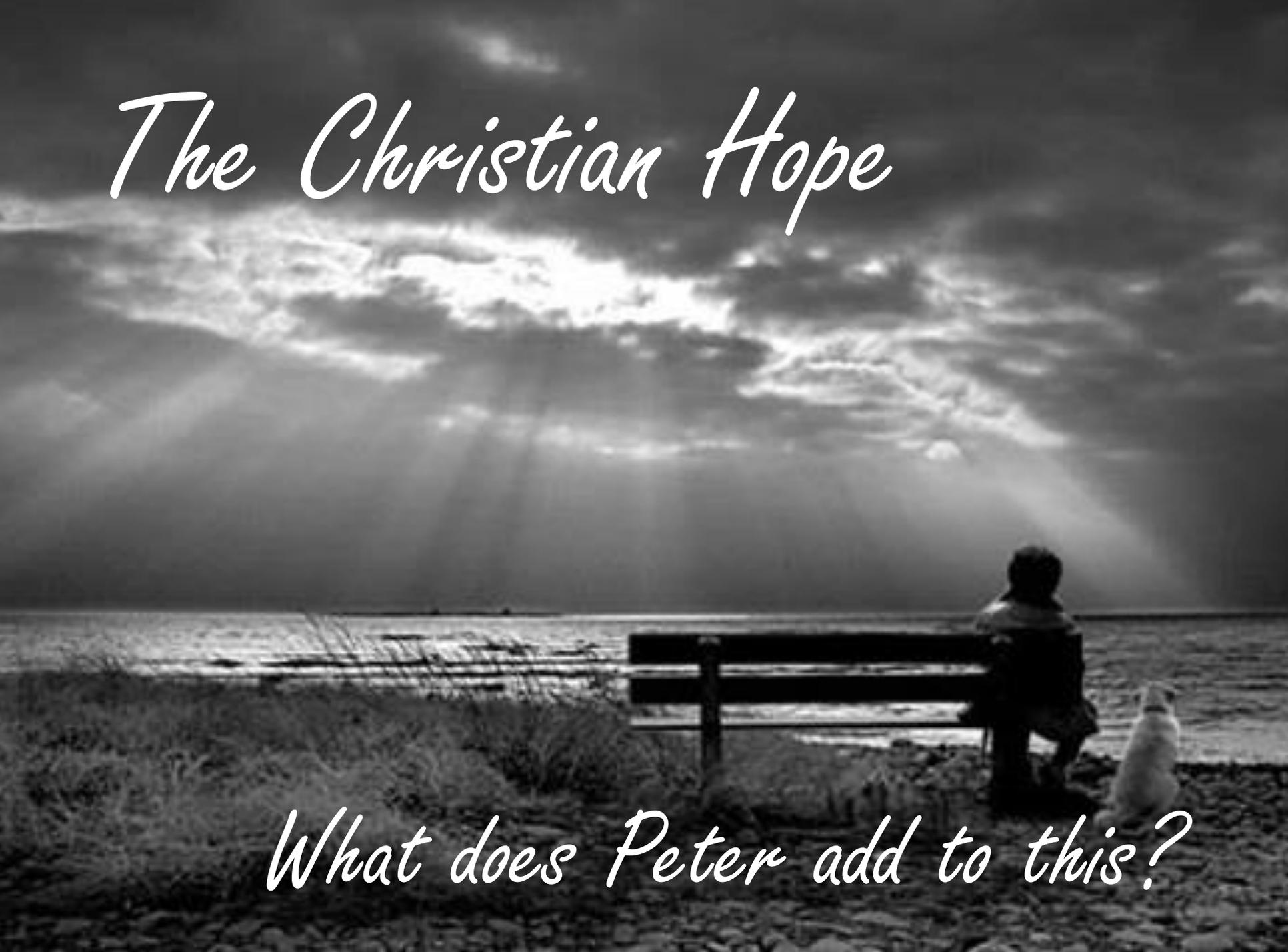
The Christian Hope - recap

Enduring confidence in the promises of God

Founded in the shadow of a Roman execution



The Christian Hope



What does Peter add to this?

1st Peter – what is that?

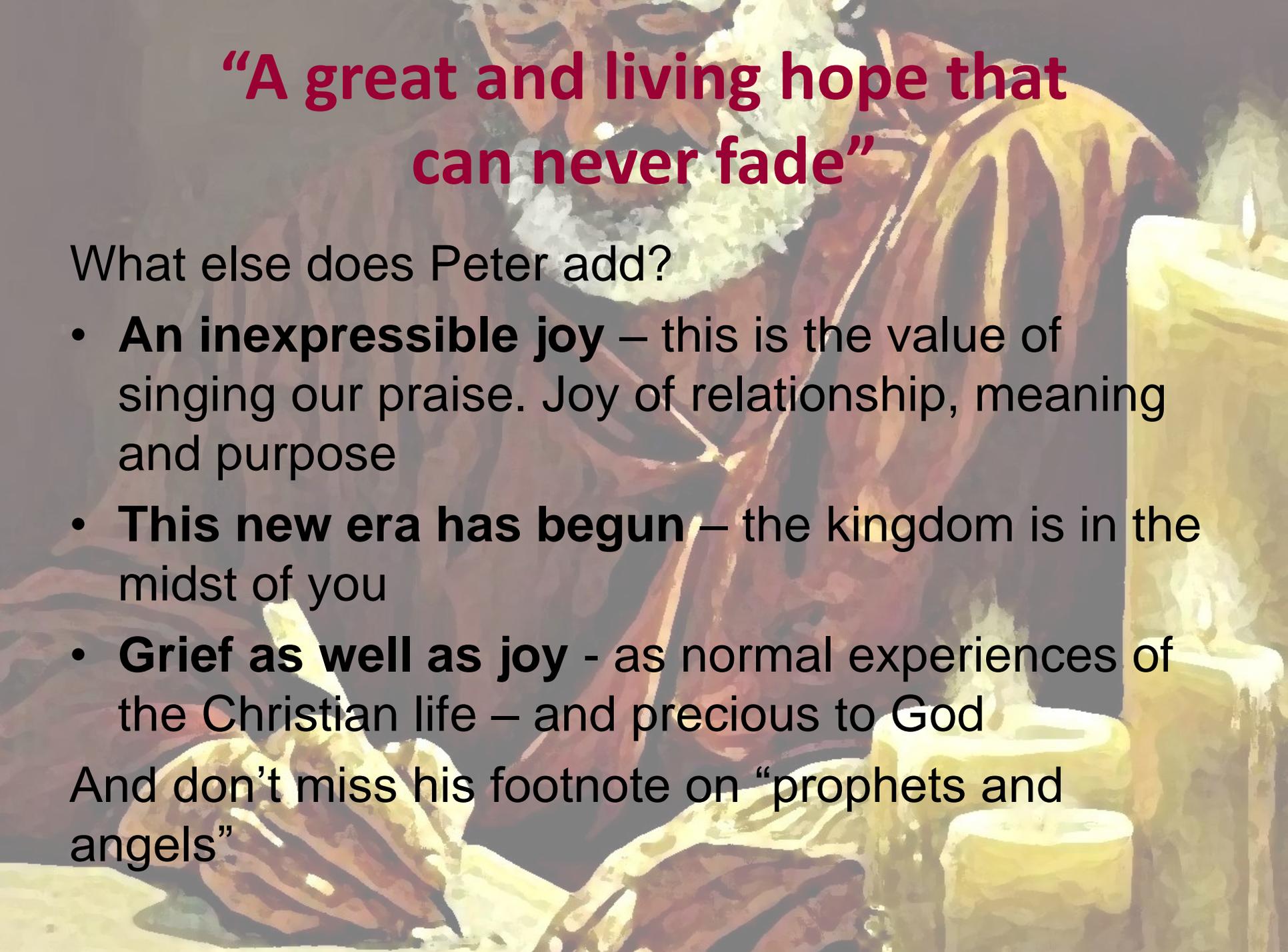
- A letter by Peter the apostle
- Yes **THAT** Peter!
- Played a big part in the Gospels
- Played a big part in Acts
- Now, older, wiser, he writes a letter to the churches ...



Today's reading - 1 Peter 1 - Praise to God for a living hope

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.



“A great and living hope that can never fade”

What else does Peter add?

- **An inexpressible joy** – this is the value of singing our praise. Joy of relationship, meaning and purpose
- **This new era has begun** – the kingdom is in the midst of you
- **Grief as well as joy** - as normal experiences of the Christian life – and precious to God

And don't miss his footnote on “prophets and angels”

The Christian Hope

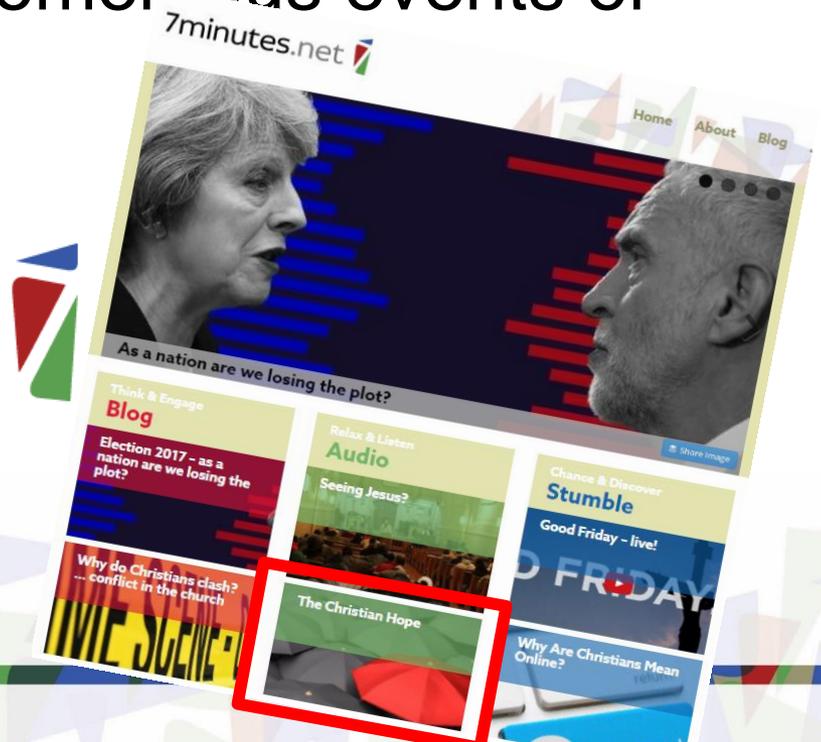
A black and white photograph of a person sitting on a bench on a beach, looking out at the ocean under a dramatic, cloudy sky. A dog is sitting on the ground next to the person.

Finishing up

A summary

- The Christian Hope is not about being hopeful
- It is enduring confidence in the promises of God
 - Trusting that God will do what he has always done
- And it is founded in the momentous events of a single weekend

7minutes.net



“e-flat”

