

CHURCH OF THE HIGHLANDS

Study Guide

Hope and Future

Mark Pettus
December 7, 2025

Major Points

- 1 Hope is not a passive wish but an active, faith-filled expectation — like a slingshot pulled tight waiting to be released, filling the cracks of every unknown in our lives.**
Jeremiah 29:11
- 2 It is not over for your purpose — God's gifts and calling are irrevocable, you are His masterpiece, and failure is not final.**
Romans 11:29
- 3 It is not over for your relationships — no addiction, sin, or broken marriage is too far gone for God to heal, as He works all things for good.**
Romans 8:28
- 4 It is not over for your faith — even restlessness and wrestling with God is a GPS leading you back to Him, and He offers true rest for the soul.**
Matthew 11:28
- 5 The context of Jeremiah 29:11 — spoken during Israel's 70-year captivity — actually strengthens the promise: God's destiny cannot be stopped, and He restores double on the other side.**
Zechariah 9:12

Key Quotes

Hope in the original language is a faith-filled expectation.
at 16:44

God has an outcome written for your life.
at 17:53

You are not disqualified. Failure is not final.
at 22:02

No addiction, no sin, no broken marriage is too far gone for him to heal.
at 25:02

If you're wrestling right now with God, even if you're offended at Him, He is not offended at you.
at 27:06

Babylon could not stop the destiny of God over Israel. And neither can our mistakes, failures, detours, the critics, the rejection, none of that can stop what God has for our lives.
at 29:38

Unless this candle is on fire, unless it is lit, there's no possibility for any of these other things.

at 32:14

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Pettus described hope as 'a slingshot pulled tight, waiting to be released' rather than a passive wish. How does redefining hope as an active, faith-filled expectation change the way you approach uncertainty in your own life right now?

2. Pastor Pettus shared three areas where 'it is not over' — purpose, relationships, and faith. Which of these three resonates most deeply with your current season, and why?

3. Pastor Pettus explained that Jeremiah 29:11 was spoken to people entering 70 years of captivity, yet God told them to plant gardens, build houses, and prosper even there. How does knowing this context change the way you receive that familiar promise?

4. In Britton's testimony, he said he 'showed up just physically' at church before everything changed. Pastor Pettus also distinguished between showing up physically and showing up in faith. What does it look like practically to show up in faith rather than just going through the motions?

5. Pastor Pettus lit the Advent candles and said that without the Christ candle at the center, none of the others — hope, peace, joy, love — are possible. How does keeping Christ at the center of your Christmas season look different from the way culture typically celebrates?

Word Studies

תִּקְוָה tiqvah

Hebrew

Hope, expectation, a cord or line; conveys the idea of something stretched taut in eager anticipation — not a vague wish but a confident, anchored expectation tied to God's faithfulness.

Usage: Used 34 times in the Old Testament, including Jeremiah 29:11, Proverbs 23:18, and Lamentations 3:29.

אַחֲרֵית acharit

Hebrew

End, latter part, future, posterity; refers to the final outcome or ultimate destination of a matter — the culmination that God has designed rather than mere chronological extension.

Usage: Used 61 times in the Old Testament, including Jeremiah 29:11, Proverbs 23:18, and Deuteronomy 8:16.

ἀμεταμέλητα ametamelēta

Greek

Irrevocable, not to be repented of, without regret; describes something that cannot be taken back or reversed — used by Paul to declare that God's gifts and calling are permanent and unchangeable.

Usage: Used 2 times in the New Testament: Romans 11:29 and 2 Corinthians 7:10.

Cross References

Lamentations 3:22-23

Affirms that God's mercies are new every morning and His faithfulness is great — undergirding the sermon's theme that it is never over because God's compassion does not fail.

Isaiah 40:31

Promises renewed strength for those who hope in the Lord — directly connects to the Hebrew concept of tiqvah as active, expectant waiting that Pastor Pettus described.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Declares that anyone in Christ is a new creation — supports the sermon's point that failure is not final and God's purpose for your life is not disqualified by past mistakes.

Psalms 139:16

Teaches that all the days ordained for us were written in God's book before one of them came to be — reinforces Pastor Pettus's point that God has written an outcome and destiny for every life.

Hebrews 6:19

Describes hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure — complements the sermon's imagery of hope as something actively tethered and pulled tight rather than floating aimlessly.

Further Reading

- **Hinds' Feet on High Places**
by Hannah Hurnard
- **Disappointment with God: Three Questions No One Asks Aloud**
by Philip Yancey
- **The Hiding Place**
by Corrie ten Boom

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Jeremiah 29:11	Read Aloud	13:00	<i>For I know the plans I have for you, declares the ...</i>
Ephesians 2:10	Read Aloud	18:20	<i>For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us an...</i>
Romans 11:29	Read Aloud	19:20	<i>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocab...</i>
Philippians 1:6	Read Aloud	21:40	<i>Being confident of this, that he who began a good ...</i>
Mark 9:23	Read Aloud	28:20	<i>What do you mean, 'If I can'? Jesus asked. Anythin...</i>
Matthew 11:28	Read Aloud	30:20	<i>Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, an...</i>
Zechariah 9:12	Read Aloud	33:20	<i>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; to...</i>
Philippians 4:6-7	Read Aloud	35:10	<i>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every sit...</i>
Jeremiah 29:12-13	Read Aloud	36:00	<i>Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, ...</i>
Matthew 25:40	Referenced	10:00	<i>Whatever you did for one of the least of these bro...</i>
Romans 8:28	Referenced	24:40	<i>And we know that in all things God works together ...</i>