



*Vindicate me, my God,  
and plead my cause  
against an unfaithful nation.  
Rescue me from those who are  
deceitful and wicked.*

*You are God my stronghold.  
Why have you rejected me?  
Why must I go about mourning,  
oppressed by the enemy?*

*Send me your light and your faithful care,  
let them lead me; let them bring me  
to your holy mountain, to the place  
where you dwell.*

*Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God, my joy and my delight.  
I will praise you with the lyre,  
O God, my God.*

*Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your **hope** in God,  
for I will yet praise him,  
my Savior and my God.*

**- Psalm 43**

"Surely there is a future, and your **hope** will not be cut off."

– Proverbs 23:18



Season of Love  
Season of Giving  
Season to be Jolly

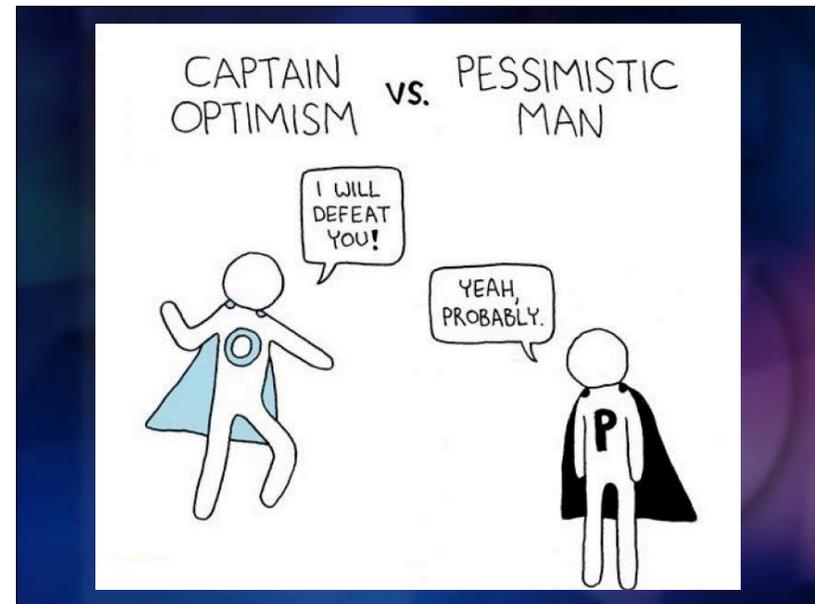
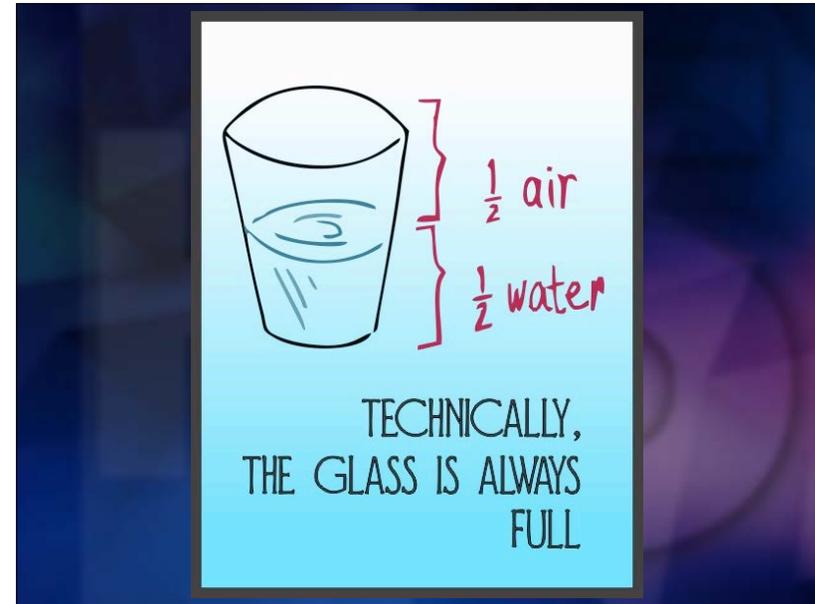


"holy/sacred"

"doing"



darkness



:(  
you decide



Caesar &  
Herod

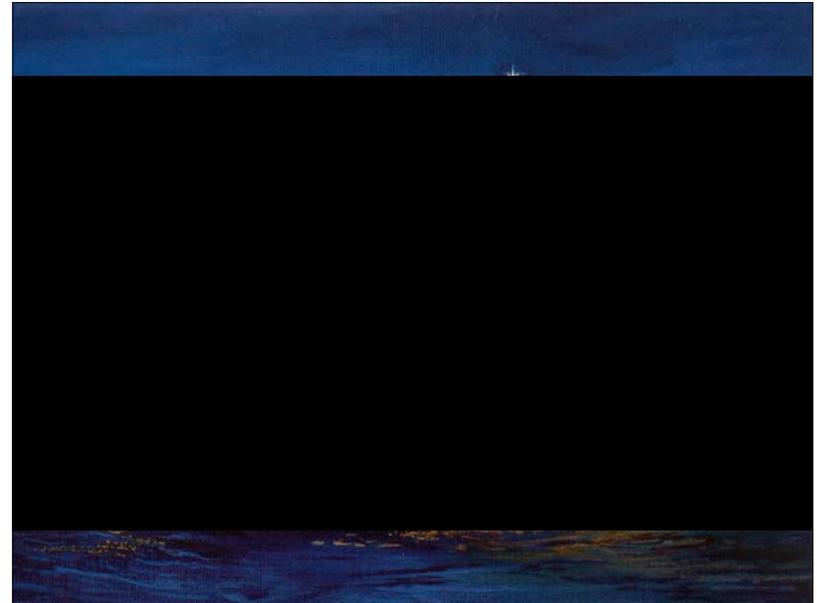
*O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight*

*Optimism and pessimism are both  
forms of distorted reality. **The  
Biblical story offers neither.** It  
does not play with our emotions.  
Rather, it stares darkness right in  
the face, and says **you exist, but  
you will not be exalted.** You  
**persist, but you will not  
persuade.***

*"The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof."*

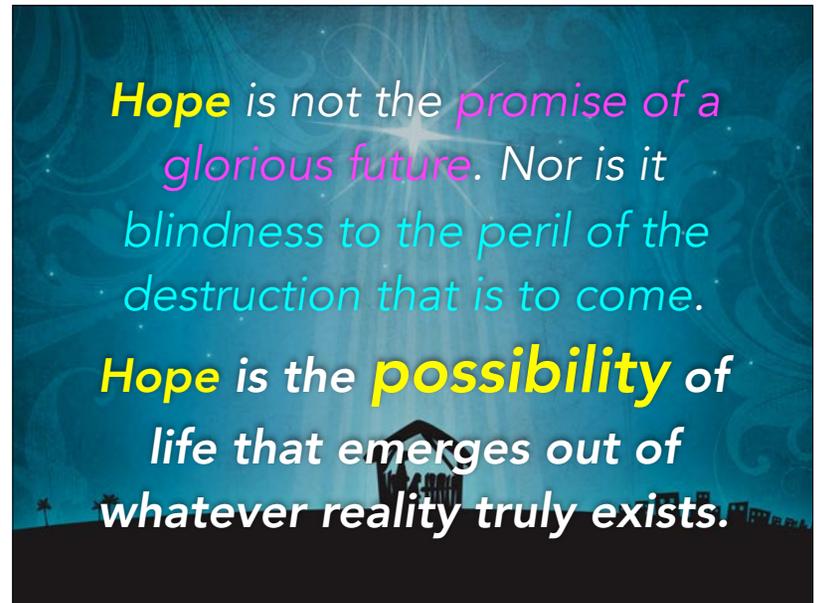
*– Barbara Kingsolver*

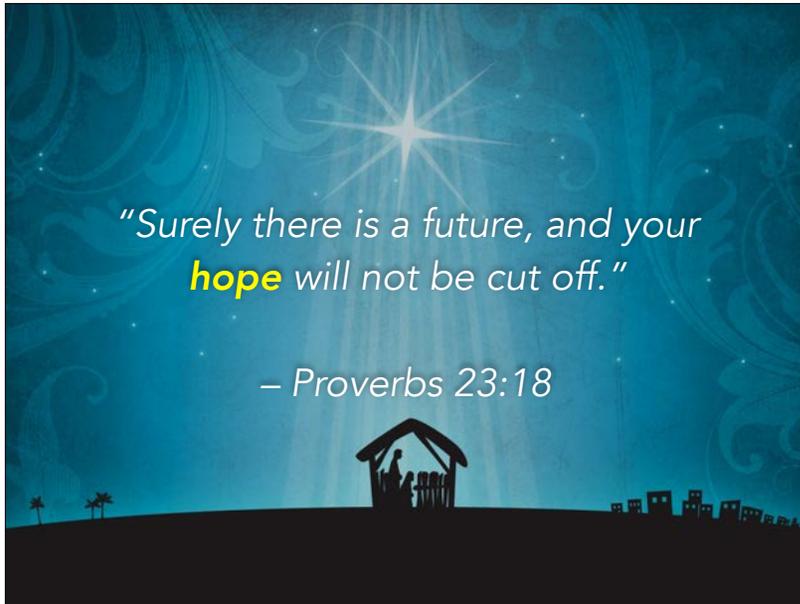
*Animal Dreams, 1991, p. 299*



**Hope** is not the **promise** of a **glorious future**. Nor is it **blindness** to the **peril** of the **destruction** that is to come.

**Hope** is the **possibility** of **life** that emerges out of **whatever reality** truly exists.





*"Surely there is a future, and your  
**hope** will not be cut off."*

*– Proverbs 23:18*



Hope begins with the question:

**Where Are You  
Going?**



spark church