

A starburst of light shines down from the top center of the frame, illuminating a manger containing a baby. The background is a dark, starry night sky. The text "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" is written in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the image.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

“Finding Hope at Christmas”

Isaiah 11:1 - 5



1. *The prophet Isaiah (735BC) brought God's message of hope for a people in spiritual, political, and moral crisis under King Ahaz.*

A. The “*stump*” of Jesse: (1050 BC)

- *Abraham*, Isaac, Jacob, *Judah*, ... , Boaz, Obed, *Jesse*, *David*... Ahaz Gen 12:3, 22:18, 49:10

B. A *shoot* – *David* (1000 BC). 2 Sam 7:16

- Ahaz – (735BC)

C. The *Branch from* his (Jesse) *roots*:

- Preexistence. John 1:1, 17:5
- Future Messiah. Jer 23:5, Luke 1:32, Jn 4:26

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- *Every metaphor in Isaiah's message pointed to a future person to be born – the Messiah. The people had hope in the present bc of what God had done in the past and would do in the future.*
- **Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.**
 - **Jn. 4:25-26** The woman said to him, "*I know that Messiah* is coming (he who is called *Christ*). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "*I who speak to you am he.*" (ESV)
- **In His name, the Gentiles will hope. Matt 12:17-21**

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2. Hope based on something other than Jesus is a **false hope**. Hope founded upon the love of God, revealed in Jesus, is real.

- Ps. 33:17-22 The war horse is a **false hope** for salvation, and by its **great might it cannot rescue**.
18 Behold, the **eye of the LORD** is on those who **fear him**, on those who **hope in his steadfast love**,
19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. 22 Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you. (ESV)

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3. *Isaiah 11:1-5 is a preview of the New Covenant that is founded upon the Abrahamic Covenant and is fulfilled by Jesus Messiah. Grace is **put on a platter** for you and me (Gentiles) to partake!*
- **Matt. 1:1** The book of the genealogy of **Jesus Christ**, the **son of David**, the **son of Abraham**... 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the **father of Ahaz**, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,..., and **Joseph** the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Christ.

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	Abrahamic Covenant	New Covenant in Jesus
A. Key scriptures	Gen 12:1-3, 15:6, 17-19	Jer 31:31-34, Luke 22:20, Heb 8:6-13
B. Type of covenant	Unconditional. Grace based. God alone. Gen 12:1-3; 15:6f=, 17-19	Unconditional; grace based. Jn 3:16, Eph 2:8, ...
C. Promises of God given thru the covenant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land of Promise 2. Son of promise, Isaac 3. Many descendants 4. Blessings-all people 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forgiveness, 2. Indwelling of HS; 3. Imparting of the righteousness of Jesus, 4. Eternal life.
D. Duration	Everlasting – brought to Gentiles by Jesus in the New Covenant	Everlasting. Rom 4:16, Gal 3:14, 3:29
E. How obtained?	God chose Abraham. • Abraham believed.	Death of Jesus - When I trust Him to save me.

Next Steps:

1. How are you doing with Hope? Is your hope based on anything other than the Lord Jesus? May today be a day that you change what your hope is based upon. God keeps his promises. He will not fail you. May this be the day you put your trust in Him?

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