**Sermon Notes**

**Bible series part 7: ‘Hope – Where is our ultimate home?’**

Can you think of a time when hope was a powerful motivator for you?

What hopes, dreams and ambitions do you still have for your life?

• What is true hope and why is it such a vital energy for humans? What false hopes do we put our trust in as a society?

Watch the video by Andrew Ollerton that summarises the big theme from the Bible and its relevance to our lives. What are your initial reactions to the film?

* **Read 1 Peter 1.3–9 slowly** and consider what words jump out at you from the text? What encourages or inspires you from this portion of scripture?
* How does the resurrection of Jesus reveal the nature of our future hope?
* **Read Revelation 22.1–21**. What are you most looking forward to about our future home and why?
* How can this hope on the far horizon inspire us today?

***This is a really important question:***

* How does our hope on the far horizon change the way we approach bereavement and death? How does it shape our priorities in life?
* Overall, how has this section on the theme of hope helped make sense of your life today?
* Read Hebrews 6.19. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

Then listen to ‘Is He Worthy?’ by Chris Tomlin [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c6pl6CaiD0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c6pl6CaiD0)

May the lyrics remind you of our great hope, inspire you and encourage you in your worship. How has this series of films and conversations helped you better understand the big story of the Bible?

**Part 7 Hope – Where is our ultimate home?**

*Hope* is a powerful force. Christian hope motivates us to live confident lives by glimpsing something glorious on the ***far horizon*** which we can see from our place on the near horizon. This hope on the ***far horizon*** for eternity, shines back to us and gives us courage, confidence and encouragement to endure the trials and challenges of this present life on the near horizon, knowing what awaits us.

**How can we know what is on the far horizon?**

We can know what is coming ahead of us because of an event that happened behind us in history – the physical bodily resurrection of Jesus.

‘We have been born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead’ (1Peter 1:3)

Our **living** hope of resurrection is embodied in Jesus who went through death and out the other side and is the first human to embody the promise of that ***far horizon*** and come back to reassure us of all that awaits those who are in Christ.

‘We have this hope as an **anchor for the soul**, firm and secure’ Hebrews 6:19

Climbing illustration: When we put our faith in Jesus **we rope ourselves to him** and he will bring us to where He is.

What does this ‘topping out’ into the ***far horizon*** look like?

Revelation 21:1-7, 22:1-2 provide us with a glimpse of the hope we have for eternity (the far horizon).

1. **Renewed planet** – a new home the way it was always intended to be. The tree of life featured in Genesis, represented the beautiful world God created for humans to enjoy. Revelation ends with the tree of life and a renewed creation and restoration to life as it was always intended.
2. **Resurrection bodies.** We will get new bodies like Jesus’s resurrection body (eats, is physical, can touch) but is not susceptible to decay or sickness or death.
3. **Reunion with God and his people**. We will inhabit a shared space with God and his people. This hope anchors our small fragile lives to a better story and gives us a security when we face loss and tragedy.

**So in the light of the hope we have in that far horizon and the reality that awaits us, how then should we live in the near horizon (the here and now)?**