

The Hope of the Church of the One Body

1 Tim 6:13-14 (KJV)

- 13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;
- 14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the **appearing** of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Titus 2:13 (KJV)

- 13 Looking for that blessed **hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

The word appearing in 1 Tim. 6:14 in the Greek is “Epiphany” which is used only 6 times in the New Testament and only in the Pauline epistles. “Epiphany” means, in the Biblical sense, “A Divine intervention to aid the called-out of God.” This is different than the other word used for coming (Parousia) – This Greek word is found 24 times in the Greek New Testament, and in the King James Version, it is translated “coming” 22 times. The other two times, it is translated “presence.”

The hope of the church of the one body is the glorious appearing of Christ Jesus. This is different than what you normally hear in Christianity today because they are claiming the Parousia which belongs to Israel. Your calling determines your hope. Parousia belongs to Abraham and that was his hope. Let’s look at the background of the hope that was present during the Acts period.

The Hope of Abraham

Acts 26:6-8 (KJV)

- 6 And now I stand and am judged for **the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers**:
- 7 Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.
- 8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

John 11:21-26 (KJV)

- 21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.
- 22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.
- 23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.
- 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the **resurrection** at the last day.
- 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the **resurrection**, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
- 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

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Obviously there was a hope for a resurrection. This resurrection was also associated with the hope of a kingdom.

Luke 19:11 (KJV)

11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the **kingdom of God** should immediately appear.

Matt 4:17 (KJV)

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

Where did these hopes come from? It all starts with Abraham and the fathers.

Abrahamic Covenant

Gen 12:1-3(KJV)

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Gen 13:14-17 (KJV)

14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:
15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.
16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.
17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

Gen 15:1-2;4-6 (KJV)

1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.
2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?
4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.
5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.
6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

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Gen 15:13 (KJV)

13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

(This was the prophecy of the Egyptian bondage)

Gen 15:18 (KJV)

18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

(This expanded what was said to Abraham being more specific of what the land gift encompassed).

This promise is made to Abraham and his offspring but the Lord is specific it applies only to the offspring he had with Sarah.

Gen 17:1-8 (KJV)

1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.
2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.
3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,
4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.
5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be **Abraham**; for a father of many nations have I made thee.
6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.
7 **And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.**
8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Gen 17:17-19 (KJV)

17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?
18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

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- 19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name **Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.**

Gen 26:1-4 (KJV)

- 1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And **Isaac** went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.
- 2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:
- 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;
- 4 **And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;**

The hope given to Abraham only involved what was here on the Earth. This one sphere of blessing is wrapped up with a Messiah and a Kingdom which involves glory and restoration. This hope was passed from Abraham to Isaac and to Jacob.

Gen 28:10-14 (KJV)

- 10 And **Jacob** went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.
- 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.
- 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.
- 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, **I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;**
- 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: **and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**

Exod 3:7-8 (KJV)

- 7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;
- 8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, **and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;** unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

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Exod 33:1-3 (KJV)

- 1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, **unto the land which I swore unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it:**
- 2 And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:
- 3 Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

Num 13:26-30 (KJV)

- 26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.
- 27 **And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.**
- 28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.
- 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.
- 30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

We see in Deuteronomy scripture that speaks to Israel's Rebellion, Rebuke, Repentance, and Restoration. This is what is known as the Palestinian Covenant which enlarges upon the Abramic Covenent in that it deals with Israel being restored by God.

Palestinian Covenant

Deut 30:1-6 (KJV)

- 1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,
- 2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;
- 3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.
- 4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

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- 5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.
- 6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

Davidic Covenant

2 Sam 7:4-16 (KJV)

- 4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,
- 5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?
- 6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.
- 7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?
- 8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheecote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:
- 9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.
- 10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,
- 11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.
- 12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.
- 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:
- 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.
- 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

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New Covenant

The last covenant declared is one of an enlargement upon the Abrahamic, Palestinian, and the Davidic covenants in that there must be a national restoration of Israel before the fulfillment of any of these covenants.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (KJV)

- 31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
- 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:
- 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.
- 35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:
- 36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

This New Covenant comes into play during the Acts Period because there were individual conversions of Jews, but a national conversion did not happen. We have seen the background of the hope that was prominent in the New Testament as Paul states in Galatians and Romans.

Gal 4:1-5 (KJV)

- 1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;
- 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.
- 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:
- 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,
- 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Romans 9:4-12 (KJV)

- 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

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- 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.
- 6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:
- 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.
- 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.
- 9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son.
- 10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;
- 11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)
- 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

How many Christians today, like Esau, have rejected our calling today in the Mystery where we have our hope in the heavenlies far above with Christ? Our hope is not with Abraham but with Christ.

Romans 9:13 (KJV)

- 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

Hebrews 12:16-17 (KJV)

- 16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.
- 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

There are three spheres of blessings which involve the earthly blessing, a heavenly blessing, and one that is in the heavenlies, far above where Christ sits. What this lesson covered was the first blessing which is the earthly hope that was given to Abraham and his seed. The heavenly hope involves New Jerusalem.

Our hope in the Mystery is separate from Abraham and involves a unique status in Christ.