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# Hope Grows

ARTIS LOVE  
NEPC SERMON SERIES  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

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**Sermon Title:** “Hope vs Evil (Tale of Two Prophecies)”  
(#3 in the Sermon Series)

**Scripture text:** Matthew 1:18-25; 2:16-18

**Main Points:**

1. Hope’s Arrival
2. Evil’s Response to Hope
3. What do we take away from the Christmas Story?



**Questions:**

1. Ice breaker: what’s your favorite Christmas movie? Bonus: Do you consider Die Hard a Christmas movie?
2. What is so significant about the virgin birth and how does that illustrate our salvation?
3. Jesus’s name signifies his mission and reason for being born in flesh, “to save his people from their sins.” The Christmas story reminds us of our need for a savior. Do you see your need this holiday season for a savior?
4. The holidays are not always merry, and scripture does not ignore that. The Gospel of Matthew begins with hope and despair. Herod (out of fear of the birth of Jesus) slaughters all boys 2 and under in Bethlehem. How have you wrestled with the darkness of the world in response to Jesus?
5. The Jeremiah prophecy (31:15-20) continues after Rachel’s weeping with the Lord promising hope for her and comfort. The Lord hears the lament of the world and has mercy and hope for his children. It may not be immediate, but it is coming. How has this prophecy changed or stretched your view of the Christmas story?