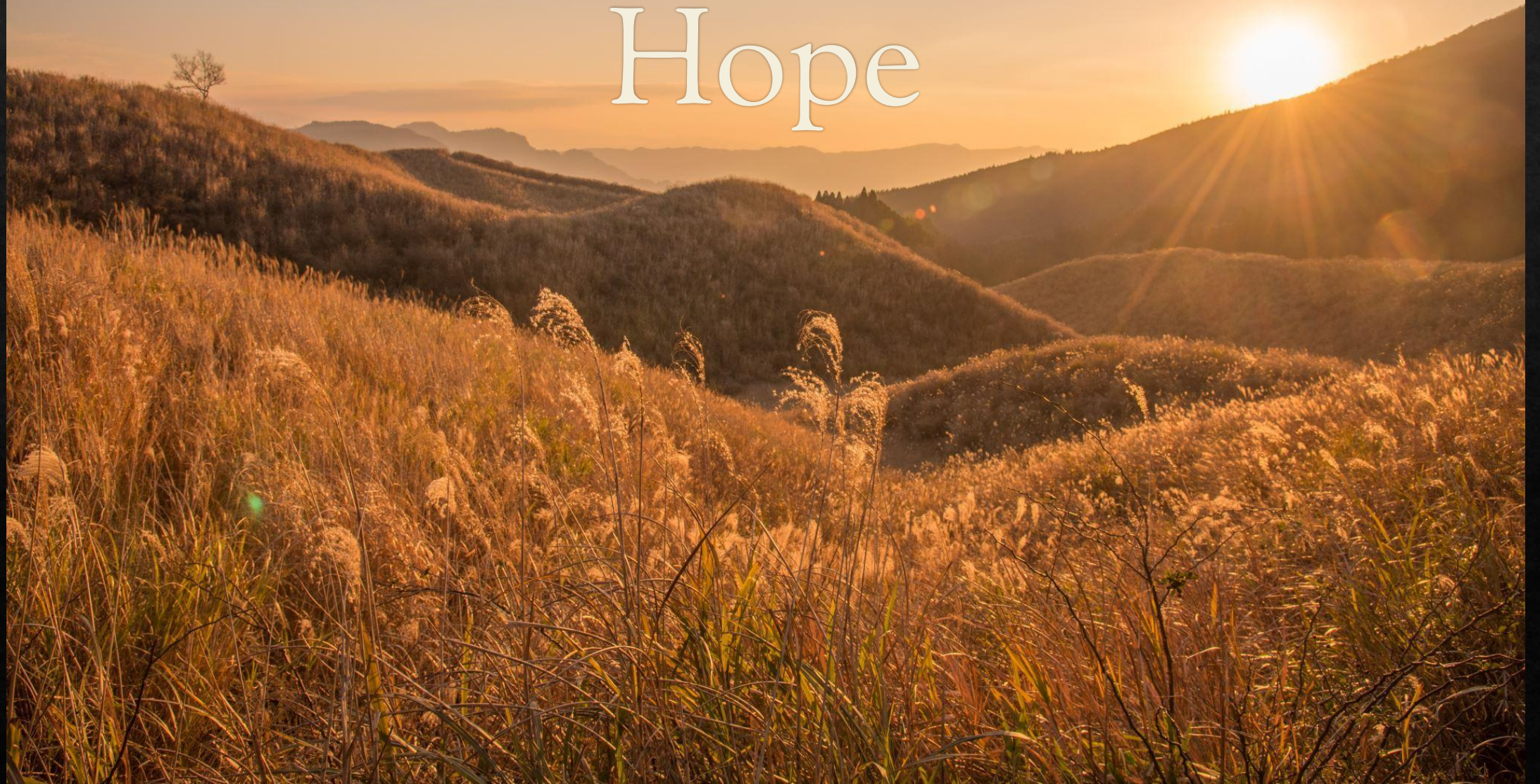


An Easter Message of Hope



Zechariah 4

Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep.

He asked me, “What do you see?”

I answered, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. Also, there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.”

I asked the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?”

He answered, “Do you not know what these are?”
“No, my lord,” I replied.

So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.

“What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of ‘God bless it! God bless it!’”

Then the word of the LORD came to me: “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.

“Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the LORD that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?”

Joel 1

The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

Hear this, you elders;
listen, all who live in the land.

Has anything like this ever happened in your days
or in the days of your ancestors?

Tell it to your children,
and let your children tell it to their children,
and their children to the next generation.

What the locust swarm has left
the great locusts have eaten;

what the great locusts have left
the young locusts have eaten;

what the young locusts have left
other locusts have eaten.

Joel 2

“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—

the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm—
my great army that I sent among you...

You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has worked wonders for you;

Never again will my people be shamed.

Then you will know that I am in Israel,
that I am the LORD your God,
and that there is no other;

Never again will my people be shamed.

And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Romans 8

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

