



WEEK 3: REAL HOPE | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

Acts 2:22-23 Fellow Israelites, listen to these words: This Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you through him, just as you yourselves know. ²³ Though he was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him.

Matthew 26:31 Jesus said to them, "Tonight all of you will fall away because of me, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

Acts 2:24 God raised him up, ending the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by death.

Acts 2:25-27 For David says of him: I saw the Lord ever before me; because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices. Moreover, my flesh will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon me in Hades or allow your holy one to see decay.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection.

Acts 2:29-31 "Brothers and sisters, I can confidently speak to you about the patriarch David: He is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn an oath to him to seat one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah: He was not abandoned in Hades, and his flesh did not experience decay.

Acts 2:28 You have revealed the paths of life to me; you will fill me with gladness in your presence.

Acts 2:32; 38-41 “God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this.” When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”⁴⁰ With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, “Be saved from this corrupt generation!”⁴¹ So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

NOTES:

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday’s sermon? Did you gain any new insights?
2. The sermon opens by describing a world filled with chaos, fear, and uncertainty. Where do you personally feel the weight of “wars, chaos, or hopelessness” in your life right now—and how has that been affecting your faith?
3. The disciples believed in Jesus but misunderstood His mission, placing their hope in the wrong outcome. What are some things people today (including yourself) tend to place their hope in—and how have you seen those things fall short?
4. The disciples’ hope “died” when Jesus was crucified. Can you think of a time when something you hoped in didn’t turn out the way you expected? How did that impact you spiritually?
5. Acts 2:24 says it was “not possible” for Jesus to be held by death. What does the resurrection of Jesus practically change about how we face sin, suffering, and death today?
6. A key line in the sermon challenges us to stop looking for life in things that can’t give it. What are some “dead things” (habits, pursuits, mindsets, or sins) people often look to for life—and how can we begin to turn away from them?
7. Peter’s response in Acts 2 is to repent, believe, and be baptized. What does it look like for someone to truly respond to Jesus today—and what might be your next step in following Him more fully?