
THERE'S REASON FOR HOPE SO REASON FOR HOPE

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Pastor Chris Brauns / @chrisbrauns / www.chrisbrauns.com

WHAT'S IN COMMON? (5 NOW, A 6TH LATER)

1. Noah warns the world & builds an ark (\cong 2,350 B.C.).
 2. David's feigns madness & hides with the Philistines (\cong 1,000 B.C.).
 3. Ahaz fears Israel/Jordan alliance & appeals to Assyria (\cong 700 B.C.).
 4. From Rome ("Babylon"), Peter encourages Christians scattered in Asia Minor as Christians face escalating persecution (\cong 63 A.D.).
 5. OBF makes strategic decisions (\cong 2015 A.D.)
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SO WHAT'S IN COMMON? (5 SITUATIONS & A 6TH LATER)

- Each referenced or addressed by I Peter 3:8-22.
 - Cultural/Political pressures tempt God's people to fear.
 - Each involves people who are a strategic part of God's plan of redemption.
 - There is every reason for hope!
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Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he
has caused us to be born again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

—1 Peter 1:3-4, c.f. 1 Peter 1:21

5 ACTIONS OF HOPEFUL CHURCHES:

1. Unify as churches (1 Peter 3:8).
 2. Bless rather than curse (1 Peter 3:9-12).
 3. Cry out in prayer (1 Peter 3:12).
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ACTIONS OF HOPEFUL CHURCHES (CONTINUED):

- 4. Fear not** (1 Peter 3:13, c.f. Joshua 1:6-9, Isaiah 41:10-14).
 - 5. Reason for hope: apologetics /**
ἀπολογία: (1 Peter 3:15)! - - but *gently*
and respectfully.
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SITUATION #6 - OUR KING

Christ went to the Cross as the substitute for His people - - -facing all the powers of the forces of darkness (1 Peter 3:18-22).

THE RIGHT QUESTION IS . . .

1. NOT: Do we realize how bad things are?
 2. RATHER: “Do we realize how *hopeful* things are?”
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