

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for his inheritance.

From heaven the LORD looks down
and sees all mankind;
from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth-
he who forms the hearts of all,
who considers everything they do.

No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear
him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.

We wait in hope for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.

May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD,
even as we put our hope in you.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

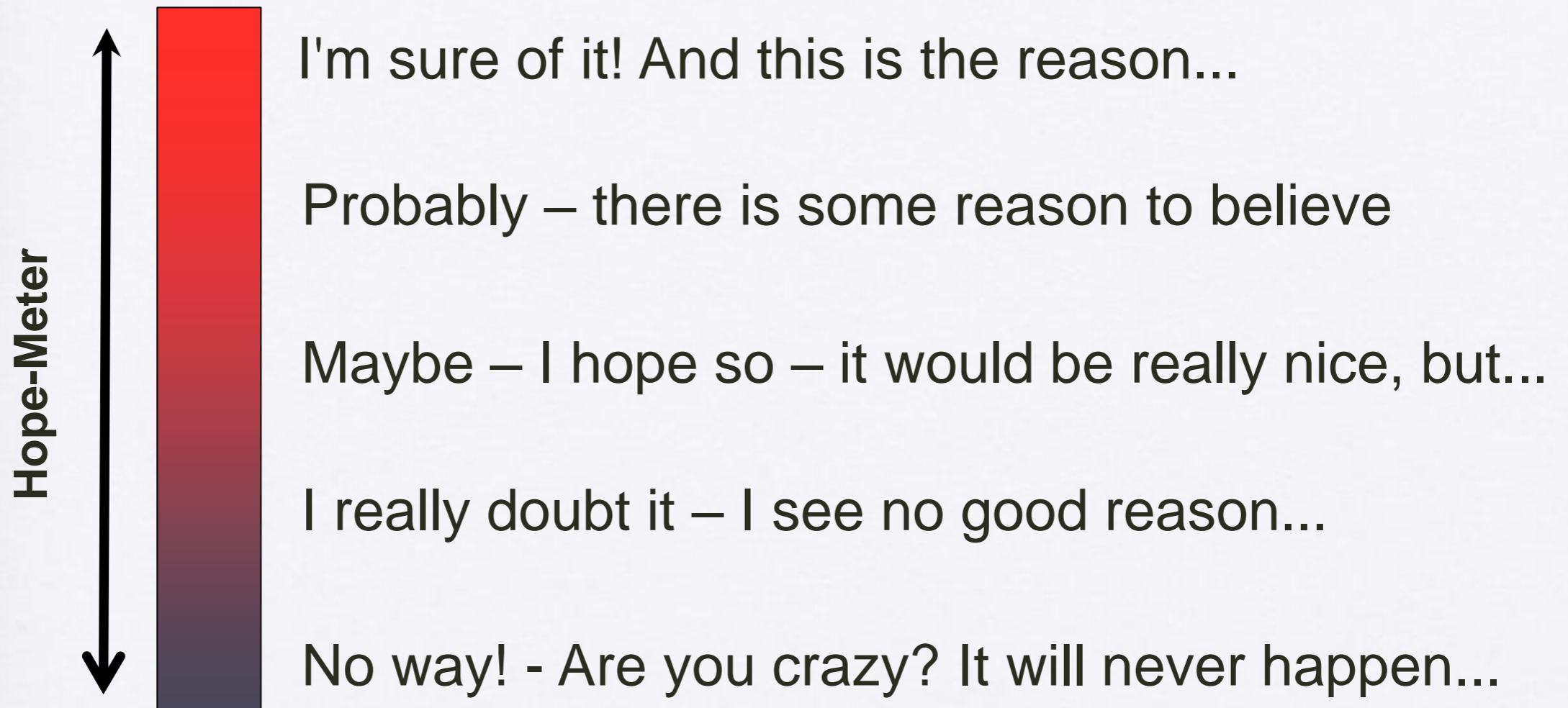
Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

The Goal of Our Faith

1 Peter 1:3-12
IBC Eindhoven
18 April 2010
Mark Limkeman

Hope



Where are you today on the “hope-meter”?

- where you live
- at your work
- with your family
- with God

Self-Confidence

Built on

- Knowing who you are and who you know
- Knowing what you know
- Knowing how to respond to others

So, how do we build self-confidence as a Christian?

1 Peter

Peter writes to people who are

- Spread out in Asia Minor (Turkey)
- Probably feeling they do not belong where they are
- Suffering for being Christians

How then to live in this situation?

Remember Peter: spontaneous, quick to follow, quick to give up. Jesus built a strong foundation in his life (Peter = “rock” => stability in difficult times)

Peter writes to build that same stability in the next generation of believers

God's Gifts

1 Peter 1:3-4

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade...”

New Birth!

Ephesians 2:4, 8

“But because of his **great love** for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions...”

“For it is **by grace** that you have been saved, **through faith...**”

God's Gifts

1 Peter 1:3-4

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade...”

Living Hope!

1 Corinthians 15: 19-20

“If only in this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But **Christ has indeed been raised from the dead**, the firstfruits of all those who have fallen asleep.”

This is **physical** life, not just spiritual life!

God's Gifts

1 Peter 1:3-4

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade...”

Incorruptible Inheritance!

John 14:2

“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for **you**.”

We have a reservation in heaven, being prepared by Jesus himself!

God's Power

1 Peter 1:4-5

“into an inheritance...kept in heaven for you, who through faith are **shielded by God's power** until the coming of the **salvation** that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

God is keeping our reservation for us

Ephesians 1:13b-14

“Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a **deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession...”

God's Power

1 Peter 1:4-5

“into an inheritance...kept in heaven for you, who through faith are **shielded by God's power** until the coming of the **salvation** that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

We are protected until Salvation is completed

John 14:3

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me** that you also may be where I am.”

1 Peter 1:9

“for you are receiving the **goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**”

Our Response

1 Peter 1:3

“**Praise** be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

-- offer grateful, respectful approval or admiration

1 Peter 1:6

“In this you greatly **rejoice...**”

-- take great delight in, be very glad about

“...though now...you may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials”

Difficult times have a purpose in God's plan for us

Our Response

1 Peter 1:8

Though you have not seen Jesus,

- you **love** him
- you **trust** him
- you are filled with **joy** beyond words

Peter sees his own relationship with Jesus also present in these people who did not yet physically see Jesus.

**Salvation is more than a future benefit - its a
relationship now**

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

Let's Celebrate

1 Peter 1:2

We have been

- ▶ Chosen by God from the beginning
- ▶ Made holy by the Spirit
- ▶ Enabled to obey Jesus
- ▶ Cleansed from our sins by his blood on the cross

Communion

“Eucharist” = Thanksgiving

Sprinkled by his blood => qualified to enter God's holy presence

Jesus: Do this in Remembrance of Me

It's not over yet

1 Peter 1:10-12

Concerning this **salvation**:

Past: Prophets Pondered

- through the Spirit of Christ

Present: Angels Long to Look

- intensely interested

Future: "The glories that will follow"

- this is just the beginning...

Our King is Returning

Zechariah 9:9-10

“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!

Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!

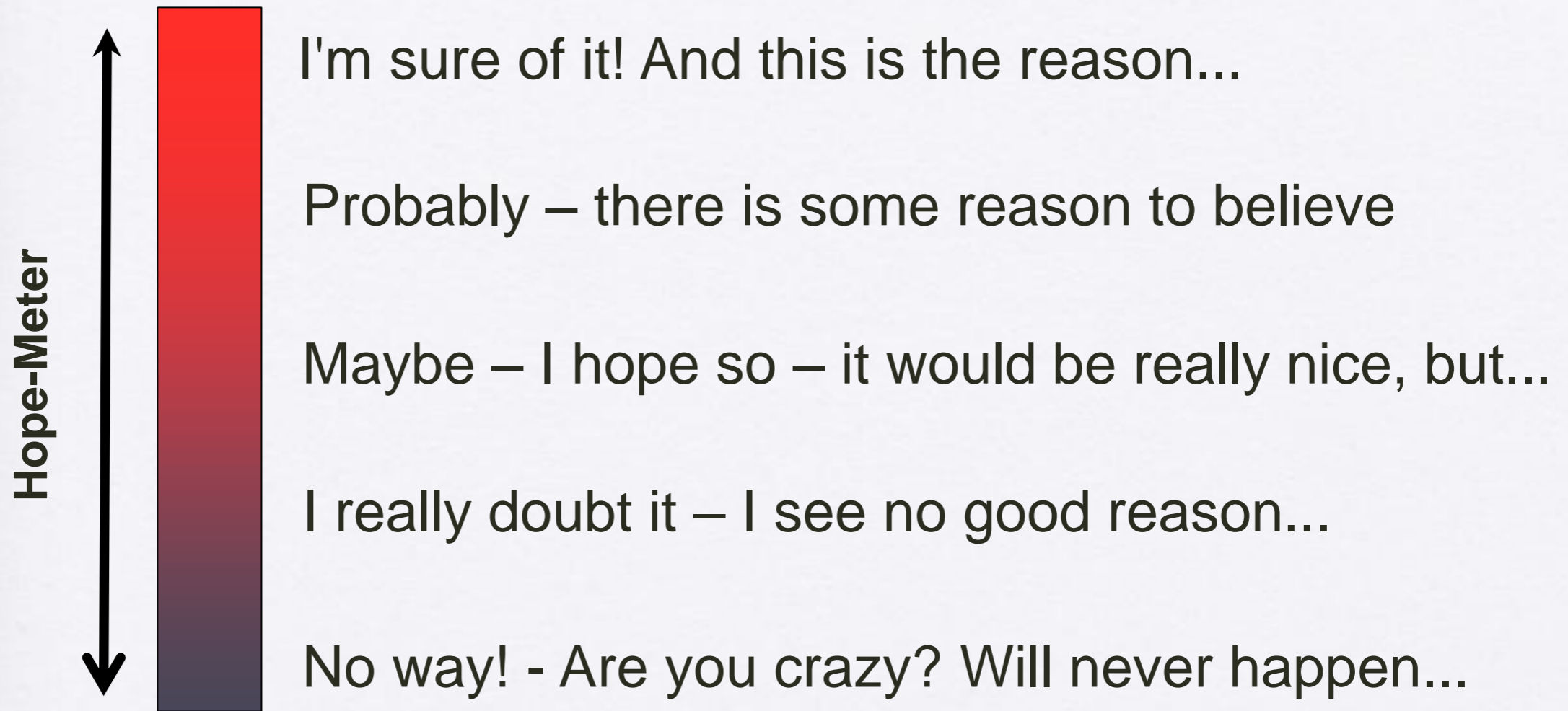
See, **your king comes to you**, righteous and **having salvation**, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim **peace** to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

Hope



How is your Hope-Meter?

Hebrews 6:19 “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

In what are you trusting for your salvation?

Self-Confidence

Built on

- Knowing who you are and who you know
- Knowing what you know
- Knowing how to respond to others

How is your self-confidence as a Christian?

- how is your knowledge of your faith?
- how is your relationship with Jesus?