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"My help comes from God, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:2

Hi Folks,

This is Vince Bury here. You may not have heard much about me as I'm a huge introvert. That means I like to sit back and think about what others are arguing about. I'd like to think I can come up with all the right answers, but, alas, I can't.

Kate entrusted me with writing to you about hope. How about that, me, the doubting Thomas of the 21st century, writing to the converted about Hope. Ironic, isn't it? It just happens I'm a bible study student and I heard something about hope today during bible study.

We were discussing Revelations chapters 9 through 11. I know what you're thinking, "How did we get through three chapters of Revelations in under one-and-a-half hours?" We didn't.

But we did get to chapter 9, verse 4, "They (the locusts) were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads...." And in chapter 11, verse 19 "Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."

The question was asked, "What do you hear from the chapter 9, verse 4?" Someone on the Zoom screen spoke out, "Hope!" It took me a minute to catch up. But I had to agree. Those who would have the seal of God on their forehead had hope. They would live through that trial.

The second image is God's temple. It has the ark of the covenant in it. What greater vision could God give to the people who need hope than His temple and with the original covenant installed in it. Even some of us Jews (partial) may be converted.

Hope can come in many forms, even during trials and tribulations such as in Revelations. Since I can see it perhaps others can too.

As my favourite comedian always said: God Bless You All, and Goodnight!

Vince Bury

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

