



# New Life, New Hope

**The world is in need of some hope at the moment.  
Maybe we Christians have something to offer.**

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This is likely going to be the strangest Easter we'll have for a long time, maybe even in our lifetime. Not much of it will be normal - church will be on the couch or at the dining table, time with family will be online or on the phone, and Easter eggs are going cheap because nobody is Easter egg hunting this year. Yes, plenty will be different or simply won't happen this Easter, but those things are very minor when we compare them to what we still have. The main message is still the same, but I think we'll hear it differently.

Nobody can really explain why things like the coronavirus happen in this world which God made. People have come up with all kinds of answers, but they all either dismiss the reality of sin, evil and suffering in this world, or make God seem like a controlling tyrant who enjoys making life hard for us. The story of Job in the Old Testament is the classic example of this. In short, Job is a good man who has plenty, but then it is all taken from him. He goes through an incredibly tough time as a result.

Have you gone through a really difficult time recently? A close friend moved away, a relative passed away, you were diagnosed

with an illness, you lost your job... Maybe you're in the middle of something right now. How do you respond to times like this?

Understandably, Job asked God why he would let such terrible things happen to him. After all, Job was a "blameless and upright" man (Job 1:1). He didn't deserve this. He wonders what God is thinking. He doubts that God is really in control. Job brings these complaints to God, and God listens to every word.

*"Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said...*

*4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?*

*Tell me, if you have understanding,*

*5 Who determined its measurements - surely you know!*

*Or who stretched the line upon it?*

*6 On what were its bases sunk,*

*or who laid its cornerstone,*

*7 when the morning stars sang together*

*and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"*

Job 38:1, 4-7 (ESV)

We don't know why God allows bad things to happen. We weren't there when he laid the foundation of the earth or when he flung the stars into space. Sometimes, we have to learn to accept that he knows and we just don't. So how do we live in a world when so many devastating things happen every day? What hope do we have?

Easter could not have come at a better time. We don't know why there is evil in the world, but at Easter we are reminded of what God has done about it.

God knows what it is like to suffer - he has been through it too, in Christ. But the most beautiful thing about Jesus' suffering and death is that he came back from it. He rose from the grave, giving us the power to do the same when our time comes. This gives us new life and new hope.

Many are in the midst of extreme difficulty, fear or loss. But when the darkness is at its darkest, the light is even brighter. We have the hope of everlasting life with all of God's people. We can trust that whatever happens in this life, our future is safe and we are loved by our heavenly Father. In a world that is in such desperate need of hope, there has never been a better time to share that hope.





## Thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over my journey so far at ALC. Thank you for your financial support and your prayers for Olivia and I. Please keep us in your prayers, especially in this tricky time of adjusting to new ways of doing things. May God bless you all as you do the same!