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JEREMIAH 29:4-7 (CSB)

“This is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles I deported from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and live in them. Plant gardens and eat their produce. Find wives for yourselves, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and give your daughters to men in marriage so that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there; do not decrease. Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive.”

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‘Citizens of Heaven’

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"With Jesus' entry into our world, the kingdom is already here… **God has invaded our exile**… Death is defeated, Heaven is ours. Satan knows it is just a matter of time. Yet we still await the kingdom's consummation, the not yet."

DR. SANDRA L. RICHTER

The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament (2008, p. 219)

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“This is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles I deported from Jerusalem to Babylon: “**Build houses** and live in them. **Plant gardens** and eat their produce. Find wives for yourselves, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and give your daughters to men in marriage so that they may bear sons and daughters. **Multiply** there; do not decrease. **Pursue the well-being of the city** I have deported you to. **Pray to the Lord on its behalf, *for when it thrives, you will thrive.***”

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MARK 1:14-15 (CSB)

“Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

MATTHEW 4:17 (NIV)

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

LUKE 10:9 (CSB)

Heal the sick who are there, and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near you.’

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MATTHEW 10:7 (NKJV)

And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

LUKE 17:21 (CSB)

“For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

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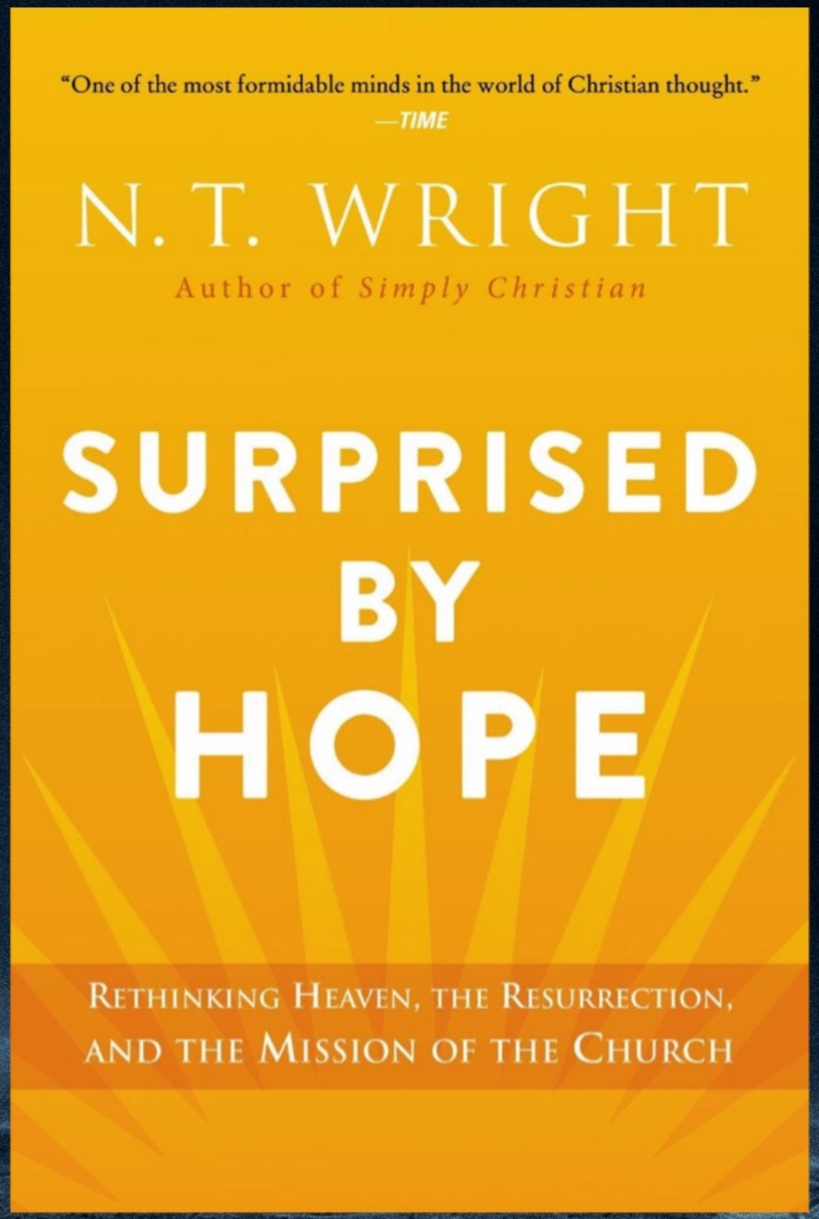

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“You are not oiling the wheels of a machine that’s about to fall over a cliff… You are not planting roses in a garden that’s about to be dug up for a building site. You are – strange though it may seem, almost hard to believe as the resurrection itself – accomplishing something which will become, in due course, part of God’s new world.”

N.T. WRIGHT

Surprised by Hope, (p. 219)

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MATTHEW 6:10 (CSB)

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

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‘In us and through us God,
Let Your Kingdom come.’
As Our Love Rises – KXC, Rich Dicas

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MATTHEW 22:37-40 (CSB)

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

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MICAH 6:8 (NIV)

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

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MATTHEW 25:40 (CSB)

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

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GALATIANS 6:7-10 (CSB)

Don’t be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, Because the one who sows to his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don’t give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

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PSALM 24:1 (TLB)

The earth belongs to God!

Everything in all the world is his!

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1 CORINTHIANS 4:20 (TLB)

The Kingdom of God is not just talking; it is living by God’s power.

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JAMES 2:15-17 (CSB)

If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,” but you don’t give them what the body needs, what good is it? In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.

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“Every act of love, gratitude and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and delighting in the beauty of his creation; every minute spent teaching a severely handicapped child to read or to walk; every act of care and nurture, of comfort and support for one’s fellow human beings, and for that matter one’s fellow non-human creatures; and of course every prayer, builds up the church, embraces and embodies holiness rather than corruption and makes the name of Jesus honored in the world – all of this will find its way, through the resurrecting power of God, into the new creation which God will one day make.”

N.T. WRIGHT

Surprised by Hope, (p. 219)

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1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-58 (CSB)

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Where, death, is your victory?

Where, death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

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