

## **“Chasing Hope: From an Empty Tomb”**

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### □ **“The Instinct of Hope”**

Is there another world for this frail dust  
To warm with life and be itself again?  
Something about me daily speaks there must,  
And why should instinct nourish hopes in vain?  
'Tis nature's prophesy that such will be,  
And everything seems struggling to explain  
The close sealed volume of its mystery.  
Time wandering onward keeps its usual pace  
As seeming anxious of eternity,  
To meet that calm and find a resting place.  
E'en the small violet feels a future power  
And waits each year renewing blooms to bring,  
And surely man is no inferior flower  
To die unworthy of a second spring?

—John Clare (1793-1864)

### □ **The Narrative of Hope**

- Matthew 28:1-10
- *Desire of Ages*: “The earth trembles at his approach, the hosts of darkness flee, and as he rolls away the stone, heaven seems to come down to the earth. The soldiers see him removing the stone as he would a pebble, and hear him cry, Son of God, come forth; Thy Father calls Thee. They see Jesus come forth from the grave, and hear Him proclaim over the rent sepulcher, ‘I am the resurrection, and the life.’ As He comes forth in majesty and glory, the angel host bow low in adoration before the Redeemer, and welcome Him with songs of praise.” (780)

### □ **The Promise of Hope**

- 1 Peter 1:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 15:13-19
- Earnest Becker: “The soberest conclusion that we could make about what has been taking place on the planet for about three billion years is that it is being turned into a vast pit of fertilizer.” (*The Denial of Death* 283/in Lewis Smede’s *How Can It Be All Right When Everything Is All Wrong?* 132)
- 1 Peter 1:3-5 *The Message*: “What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all—life healed and whole.”
- Lewis Smedes: “We may as well be very candid: Christian hope is fixed on the last square of our date book. Hope bets that the last square is not that closed closet commonly called a coffin, but a front door into a new world where everything is right, right in all its dimensions. There will be an intermission, of course, between my arrival at my own private last square and the arrival of the new world. But I will not feel as if I need to wait for it to come. In fact, when I find myself in the new earth, I will feel as if I got there at the moment I left the last square of my calendar. It may be light years away, but

in the new dimension it will seem like tomorrow.” (*How Can It Be All Right, When Everything Is All Wrong?* 124)

- Rubem A. Alves: “Hope is hearing the melody of the future. Faith is to dance to it.”

*“And the future starts now!”*