

What do you make of this:

“In this age of chaos and disorder, our once sacred religion has been forgotten. We suffer from famine and disease, God seems distant, not caring about us or our suffering anymore. Corruption and injustice reign in our world.”

Or this:

“With each passing moment, our world crumbles further into disarray. Our traditions, once held dear, are now mocked by the ignorant and the arrogant. Darkness encroaches upon the land, and the light of truth dims with each passing day. how I fear for the future of our children and grandchildren.”

Sound familiar? Could be any of us saying it. But, in fact, both are from letters by ancient Egyptians, written thousands of years ago.

Or this:

“Our times are so troubled. Our world seems plunged into darkness. Wars everywhere, devastating everything, and hunger and disease afflict so many. Justice is a distant memory – tyranny and oppression have killed it. How I look forward to a better world!”

Sound familiar again? That’s from a medieval writer bemoaning the state of the world,

The point is, that we find ourselves in such a world today – but the world has always been like this. It’s just that now, because of communication technology, we know it instantly. A someone recently said, there’s a dark cloud in our very living-rooms.

What we need above all in this day and age – just as they did thousands or hundreds of years ago – is hope. A Canadian writer said: ‘Hope is living completely in the mercy of God’. Hope is never sentimental or weak or timid: It is alive, it is courageous, it is strong... and it knows what it is doing because it isn’t ours – it is God’s. It’s always there – we just have to open our hands to receive it.

Hope is not about the future – it’s about the present, about every single moment. However deep the darkness, hope always looks for the light, wherever it may be. The more hope in God and his mercy is cultivated, the more our world will begin to become what the ancient Egyptian and the medieval scribe longed for.