

The title 'Vintage CHRISTMAS' is centered against a dark, misty forest background. 'Vintage' is written in a red, cursive script font, with a golden sunburst of dashed lines radiating from behind it. 'CHRISTMAS' is written in a large, white, bold, outlined sans-serif font. Below the text is a red silhouette of a mountain range with three small evergreen trees on either side.

*Vintage*  
**CHRISTMAS**



...AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME EMMANUEL

**I'm declaring war between you  
and the Woman,  
between your offspring and  
hers.  
He'll wound your head,  
you'll wound his heel.**



Hoping does not mean doing nothing, it is the opposite of desperate and panicky manipulations, of scurrying and worrying. And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion or fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert, expectation that God will do what He said He will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way and in His time.

**Confidence, assurance, trust, faith, peace, and joy are things that make life wonderful, that give us strength and courage, realities that make us sleep well and work hard. As long as we have hope we will never give up...only the Gospel, the good news of Jesus can make this happen.**

*One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week...While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him.*



The angel said: *Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord...He will be filled with the Holy Spirit. And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God....He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord.*

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