

THE PLAN IS COMING TOGETHER



INTRODUCTION

Soren Kierkegaard *"The press of busyness is like a charm. It's power swells...it reaches out seeking always to lay hold of ever younger victims so that childhood or youth are scarcely allowed the quiet and the retirement in which the Eternal may unfold a divine growth."*

DISCUSSION

What do you hate most about waiting?

EXPLANATION

Read and discuss the following single verses:

Genesis 49:18

Psalms 25:3

Psalms 27:14

Psalms 31:24

Psalms 37:34

Psalms 38:15

Psalms 130:5

APPLICATION

Why is it important to learn to wait?

How is not being able to wait an issue of patience and trust?

MISSION

How could a waiting with grace be a witness to those around us?

What damage do we do to God's reputation by freaking out over things we have no control?

How can people *help you* to learn to wait better?

Week 35

Family & Group Discussion



Genesis 21:22-34

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Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalms 37:7, 34

Luke 2:25

Acts 1:6

Romans 8:23-25

Romans 5:3-5

2 Peter 3:8

Isaiah 32:17

Romans 8:24-25

Galatians 3:28-29

Genesis 12:1

Genesis 49:18

Psalms 25:3, 5, 21

Psalms 27:14

Psalms 31:24

Psalms 37:34

Psalms 38:15

Psalms 130:5

Romans 12:2

Week 35

Notes & Scripture



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Isaiah 55:10-11 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

God does things in His timing and in His way, usually that means we have to wait. It can even be frustrating when you turn to the Bible and the all powerful and wise God keeps telling His people to wait.

- At 75, God says to Abraham, “you will be the ancestor of a great nation,” yet He waits 25 years.
- God’s promise to Israel is that they would leave Egypt, waited 400 years.
- God told Moses to lead His people. Waited 40 years.

AEJ Rawlingson *“Faint hearts my even have begun to wonder whether the Lord Himself had not abandoned them to their fate, or to doubt the reality of Christ. They are to learn from this story that they are not forsaken, that the Lord watches over them unseen...that the Living One, Master of the wind and waves, will surely come quickly for their salvation, even though it be in “the forth watch of the night.”*

Ben Patterson *“What God does in us while we wait is just as important as what we are waiting for.”*

God’s promises:

1. **You will have a son** → lead to offspring as numerous as sands on the sea-shore. Beginning of Chapter 21 he gets his promised son, but he only has the one. How does this son become this nation God promised?

Waiting takes **patient trust** - because Abraham doesn’t see this nation, he only ever sees his boy. We must trust God’s reasons for making us wait.

2. **You will be a blessed** → to be a blessing, should lead to the entire world being blessed.

God blesses Abraham and makes him righteous...

Waiting brings **Confidence and humility**

- 1) Confidence—in the One who sustains you.
- 2) Quietness (humbleness)— recognition of your limits.

Waiting is something only the humble do with grace.

3. **God promised Abraham a land** → Here he gets a well, but never sees the whole land become his.

Waiting on God also requires an Inextinguishable hope.

What Genesis forces us to see is a picture of Abraham who did not live out all his days in the Land of Promise but spent many of his days in exile. Even Isaac, the son of the promise, was not born in the Land of Promise. He was, rather, born in exile and had to sojourn there with his father who “wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another” (Ps 105:13).

The intention of the narrative seems very close to that which the writer of the Book of Hebrews saw in these narratives. In Hebrews 11:8-13, it is recalled that though Abraham had left his father’s land and had come to the Land of Promise, he lived there “like a stranger in a foreign country.... they were aliens and strangers on earth.” The picture of Abraham in exile is an example of God’s caring for the righteous who must suffer while waiting to enter the land.

Rom 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Everything that deals with covenant in Genesis shows an interplay between human beings, God as sovereign Lord, and patient trust. God announces His purposes, which no action of man can thwart. Abraham responds to God’s revelation with faith and obedience and, after years, Abraham personally experienced the blessings that God promised. It was after years of waiting...but God is ALWAYS true to His word.

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Communion Signups

Setup and Cleanup of Communion

<http://goo.gl/rcCXd>

