



EMBRACING LIFE'S WAITS

VIEWING OUR WAITS THROUGH THE LENS OF REDEMPTION

PATIENCE...WE'VE ALL BEEN HERE



OUR FAMILIARITY WITH WAITING

- Shopping Lines
- DMV Lines
- Roller Coaster
- Doctor's Office
- Traffic
- Etc...



All of us are familiar with this thing called waiting. It's just one of those things that all us deal with continually through life. You know what I mean? Think of some examples where you have been required to wait for something. It really happens more than you might initially think. IE's could include: lines when shopping, the ever dreadful DMV lines, roller coaster lines, job application waits, traffic waits, doctor office waiting room, etc. You see...waiting really happens continually throughout our everyday rudimentary routines.

GOING DEEPER: IMPORTANT WAITS IN LIFE

- Jobs
- Spouse or Family Issue
- Someone's Salvation
- Life-Altering Decisions
- Relief from Circumstances



Think beyond this though at a deeper level. While waiting occurs at our everyday rudimentary responsibility levels, it also occurs continually throughout life at the deeper more important levels of life. We may call this a trial.

How many of us have gone through a period of significant waiting for something pretty important in life? IE's could include: waiting for a desired job, waiting on God for a spouse, waiting for resolution for some kind of family issue, waiting for God's blessing of children, waiting for a friend or loved one's salvation, waiting for God's leading in an important decision, waiting for relief from a particular circumstance, etc. (Give our personal ie's of this: deputation, housing, meetings, support, needs to be met, Bethel, AK house, Laura's fall AK nursing job opp.)

GOD'S PLAN: WAITING

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You see, waiting is a pretty important and regular thing that we must all deal with in life. Let me ask you a question. How do you handle waits? Do you wait well? Did your answers merely reflect your opinion...or are they inline with God's opinion?

God's plan for us often involves waiting. You mean this isn't just a part of the fall, but God Himself really actively puts into waiting periods? That's an interesting proposition. Did Adam and Eve deal with waiting before the fall? I'm sure as they tended the garden, there were waiting periods for the harvest (only their sinless state allowed them to patiently wait). Waiting has always been a part of God's design, but our sin nature has definitely complicated these waiting periods.

We must learn to accept the fact that life is chalked full of waits. We must actually learn to embrace the waits in life in fully redemptive ways (in pre fall ways, in Christ-like ways, in Godly ways).

GOD'S PLAN: WAITING

- How Do You Handle Your Waits?
- God's Design for Us Involves Waiting
- How Do You View Your Waits?

We Must EMBRACE the WAITS in Fully REDEMPTIVE Ways!



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3 PROMINENT EXAMPLES

VIEWING OUR WAITS THROUGH THE LENS OF REDEMPTION

- Joseph
- David
- Jesus



Join me as we delve into Scripture & reveal God's plan for you and me during our waits.
Let's dive in & Learn how we can embrace our waits in Fully Redemptive Ways.

I. 3 Prominent Examples of Waiting in Scripture

Then... we'll look at:

II. Viewing Our Waiting through God's Redemptive Lens

JOSEPH'S WAIT



- Joseph's Life Story: Gen. 37-50
- Joseph's Heart at the End of his Wait: Gen. 45:5-8, 50:15-21

1. Joseph's waiting

- Recall Joseph's life story (*Gen. 37-50*)

(37 he is sold into slavery, 39:16-23 he is falsely accused & thrown into prison, 40:22-41:14 he waits 2 yrs. as the cupbearer forgot him, and 43-44 he waits to see if his brothers have changed)

- Scripture records for us Joseph's heart at the end of one of his waits in life. Notice as you read and ponder on Joseph's response that His confidence is rooted in God's sovereignty. It must not have always been easy for Joseph during the waiting periods, but God was doing His redemptive work in Joseph's life through the waits. Scripture's inclusion of Joseph's response here allows us to peer into his heart and see the redemptive result of his waiting. (*Gen. 45:5-8 & 50:15-21*)

DAVID'S WAIT



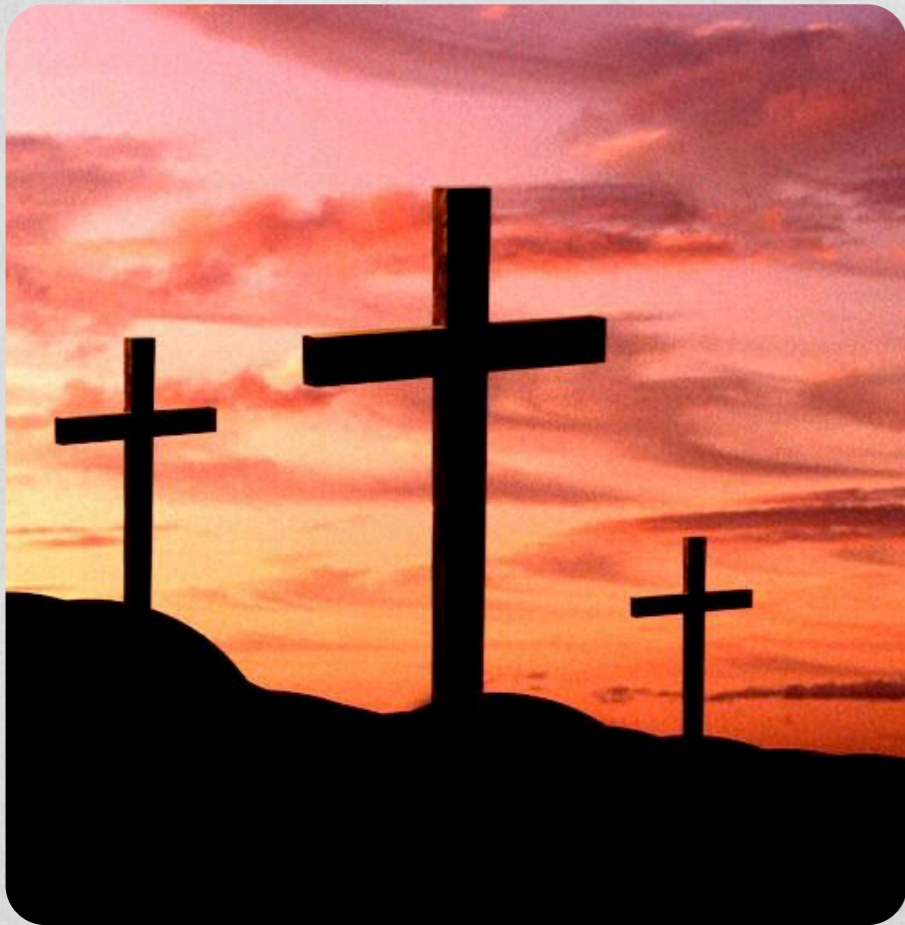
- Recall David's Wait: 1 Sam. 16:11 - 2 Sam. 5:5
- 17 Years of Waiting for God's Promises! (2 Sam. 5:4-5)

2. David's wait

- Recall David's wait. (1 Sam. 16:11 - 2 Sam. 5:5)

- Scholars think David was probably around 13 when chosen by God to be king. He then went through around 17 years of waiting (longer if you include assuming the rule over all Israel) for the calling of God on his life. 2 Sam. 5:4-5 tell us he began his reign of just Judah initially at age 30 (for 7.5 yrs., then all Israel beginning after that = he began his full reign of all Israel at 37 yrs. old.) That's a long time to wait for your calling in life! The waiting period wasn't easy either!

JESUS' WAIT



- Recall Jesus Life: Various Gospels
- Note the many silent years.
- Note His Mission & His wait until age 30.
- His wait amidst Satan's short-circuit temptation
- His submission to the Father's perfect timing.

3. Jesus' wait (various in Gospels)

- Jesus enters the world the natural way as a baby, visited by wise men, flees to Egypt, then returns (Matt. 1-2, Luke 2)

- John the Baptist prepares the way, Jesus is baptized, immediately goes to wilderness for temptation (Matt. 3, Mark 1, Luke 3-4, John 1)

(Interesting note regarding Mark: he just begins w/ John the Baptist, early church fathers Papias & Eusebius show that Mark recorded his Gospel from Peter's testimony, it was intended for a broad audience beyond the Jews, so it tries to familiarize non-Jews w/ certain Jewish teachings so these Gentiles will fully grasp the redemptive message / John's Gospel is also intended for both Gentiles and Jews, writing predominantly to prove the Gospel, he like Mark just goes right to the point beginning at John the Baptist but w/ a twist including reference to Jesus' divinity amidst Gentile Stoic & Gnostic controversies.)

- Notice the many silent years we have since Jesus' birth. (Except for Luke 2:41-52 in temple at 12 yrs.) He came to be humanity's Savior. To bring redemption. To be our Lamb. He knew this was His purpose. While He could have chosen various ways to accomplish this maybe faster, He submitted to the Father's timing. Even in the wilderness temptation when approached by Satan with opportunities to short-circuit His mission, Jesus submitted to the Father's timing. Thus, even Jesus waited for the perfect timing. In fact, we could still say that Jesus is waiting. We are awaiting His return, our complete salvation, the full restoration of all things. You see, God's entire plan for humanity involves His perfect timing and the subsequent waiting periods.

VIEWING OUR WAIT THROUGH GOD'S REDEMPTIVE LENS

- Isaiah 40
- Romans 8:23-30
- Hebrews 12:1-11



As we continue revealing God's plan for you and me during our waits, we must begin to view these waits through God's redemptive lens. We've seen 3 real Scriptural examples of men who embraced their waits in Fully Redemptive Ways.

II. Viewing Our Waiting through God's Redemptive Lens

ISAIAH 40

- Isaiah, God's prophet to Israel, warns of coming judgment (chps. 1-39) and points toward God's overall redemptive plan of restoration and peace (chps. 40-66).
- Isaiah depicts the sheer grandeur & majesty of God (vs. 9-28)
- Isaiah connects the depiction of God's Grandeur to His absolute trustworthiness amidst exiled Israel's waiting (vs. 29-31).

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1. Isaiah 40

- Isaiah is God's prophet to an idolatrous Israel. *Chps. 1-39* Isaiah warns of coming judgment. *Chps. 40-66* Isaiah points toward God's overall redemptive plan of restoration and peace.

Refer to ESV Study Bible "Purpose, Occasion, and Background"

But by Isaiah's time, the descendants of Abraham and many members of the dynasty of David no longer trusted the promises of God, aligning themselves instead with the promises—and the fears—of this false world. Judah's unbelief in God during the pivotal events of Isaiah's lifetime redirected their future away from blessing and toward judgment. At this historic turning point, Judah moved from independence under God's power to subservience under pagan powers. What, then, of God's ancient promises? Is the gracious purpose of God defeated by Judah's sin? Isaiah answers that question. After the prefatory chapters 1–5, his answer unfolds in chapters 6–27, and the rest of the book develops the serious but hopeful message of these chapters. Isaiah's answer is that, although God must purify his people through judgment, he has an overruling purpose of grace, beginning with Isaiah himself (ch. 6), spreading to Judah (7:1–9:7) and Israel (9:8–11:16), and resulting in endless joy (12:1–6). Even the nations of the world are taken into account (13:1–27:13). The purpose of Isaiah, then, is to declare the good news that God will glorify himself through the renewed and increased glory of his people, which will attract the nations. The book of Isaiah is a vision of hope for sinners through the coming Messiah, promising for the “ransomed” people of God a new world where sin and sorrow will be forever forgotten (35:10; 51:11).

Isaiah's book envisions three historical settings (see chart): (1) chapters 1–39 are set against the background of Isaiah's own times in the late eighth century b.c.; (2) chapters 40–55 assume the Jewish exiles in Babylon in the sixth century as their audience; and (3) chapters 56–66 take the returned exiles and subsequent generations of God's people as their backdrop. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that the chapters have relevance only to their assumed audiences: the long-range prophecies of chapters 40–66, as already indicated, challenge all the people of Judah in Isaiah's time to accept their role in a story that is headed to a glorious future and to live faithfully in that light (cf. 2:5, on the heels of 2:1–4). Further, the entire book, as canonical Scripture, addresses all the people of God until Christ returns.

- *Is. 40:9-28* Isaiah depicts the sheer grandeur & majesty of God in all of His glory. The awesome progression of this chapter is the connection of vs. 9-28 to vs. 29-31!

- *Is. 40:29-31* Now Isaiah climaxes the entire chapter at the end. Do you see it? The time spent depicting God's sheer majesty serves to encourage struggling exiled Israel to wait on God! Oh, we serve a mighty God! Isaiah encourages Israel then in his day to heed the warnings & become a part of God's awesome plan! Isaiah encourages his future readers who would be in exile to find their rest, their refuge in their Mighty God!

- Oh, do you see it? God rules and reigns this world today in absolute control according to His perfect purposes. Israel had to endure much waiting. We often endure long periods of waiting in life. Take comfort in our great, mighty God! Wait on Him and He will renew your strength from His limitless resources.

Can you see through our 3 examples of Joseph, David, & Jesus the truth of Is. 40?

ROMANS 8:23-30

- Romans is Paul's deep look at the Gospel. Chapter 8 focuses on this Gospel, but at a level beyond just a prayer or a way to heaven.
- The Gospel brings abundant life NOW, as we progressively become reflectors of God's coming full Kingdom of Complete Redemption!
- Everything serves as our Father God's purifying purpose!

2. Romans 8:23-30

- Paul speaks of the awesome Gospel. Notice here though at this point in *chp. 8* that he goes beyond the Gospel in the sense of our initial salvation. You see the Gospel involves much more than merely a prayer or a home in heaven! Those things are great, but the Gospel is much more! The Gospel involves an abundant life in Christ's freeing power in the here and now, as we become ambassadors and reflectors of God's coming full Kingdom of Complete Redemption. The Gospel serves not only an eternal salvation work, but a here and now purifying, transforming work. Every, Every, Every circumstance, relationship, trial, temptation, difficulty, thing...Every, Every thing serves as our Father God's purifying purpose! Oh, do you see it? What else can we do, but respond in relentless faith; grasping on with hope to the promises of our Awesome Purifying Sovereign LORD of ALL!!!

Can you see through our 3 examples of Joseph, David, & Jesus the truth of Rom. 8?

HEBREWS 12:1-11

- Hebrews addresses believers under persecution. They are encouraged to persevere, rather than turn away back to Judaism (hence Heb. 10:25).
- They are to lay aside every distraction and endure through faith in God's perfecting purposes.
- Vs. 3-11 encourage believers to endure amidst this often painful, but purifying outworking of the Gospel. (*paideia* refers here in context to training up/transforming through life's hardships)

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3. Hebrews 12:1-11

- The writer addresses believers who are undergoing intense persecution. The author encourages the struggling believers to persevere amidst the intense opposition. Apparently the opposition was so great that these Jewish Christians were considering ditching it all and going back to Judaism (Hence the command to not forsake the assembly in *Heb. 10:25*).
- As the writer begins chapter 12, he continues his encouragement to persevere. He encourages struggling believers to lay aside every distraction and live life with endurance, an endurance rooted in their faith in God's perfecting purposes. He encourages them and us today to endure, to wait, and to view life's hardships/opposition through God's perfecting lens.
- In vs. 3-11 we believers are encouraged to persevere in light of this often painful, but purifying outworking of the Gospel. God is transforming us through a process of discipline (Greek word is *paideia* referring to child-rearing through training, instruction, & correction). Here in the context the writer teaches that God is perfecting His work of transformation through their trials and they are to endure.
- You see, everything in our lives (as believers) serves for God's purifying *paideia* transforming purposes. We must view all of life through this grid. *Heb. 12:11* doesn't specify the discipline, but it is clear that although it often seems painful, it long-term yields itself in Christ-like transformation (vs. 10). We must view our waiting periods in life through this God-centered lens!

Can you see through our 3 examples of Joseph, David, & Jesus the truth of Heb. 12?

EMBRACING THE WAIT...PART OF OUR REDEMPTION

Conclusion:

Are you beginning to see just how common waiting is in our everyday lives? I trust you can identify by now several waiting periods in your past and/or in your present. We've looked at 3 prominent examples of Godly men who embraced their waits through God's lens. We've also then looked at 3 insightful passages regarding the way God views the trials and waits in our lives. Can you see more clearly now your need to view your waiting in life through God's lens of redemption?

The Gospel is an amazing truth! I trust we all share in it together! Jesus paved a way to bring us back to the Father God! God in His grace reached down through the muck and the mire and pulled us up, drawing us to Himself for salvation! Think about your salvation...isn't it awesome! Think beyond the prayer of salvation, or even heaven...think about what we've learned here today regarding the Gospel's outworking influence in our lives right now! If you've never seen the Gospel's influence in the here and now, I pray God will enlighten your eyes to His truth! It will be so revolutionary for you to view your life now through God's redemptive lens! I pray this makes sense! When we do view all of life in the here and now through God's redemptive lens, we see that everything, every circumstance, and every waiting period in life serves God's great redemptive purposes! God is constantly at work in us, transforming us into His image day by day. He is so sovereign and His ways so superior to our understanding, He orchestrates every circumstance for our redemptive good!

When you really catch this, it has to affect the way you view the waits in life! So, those waits we all identified in our minds...how have you been viewing and dealing with those waits? Will you submit your way of dealing with those waits to the Father's ways. View your waits through God's Redemptive Lens!

EMBRACING THE WAIT...PART OF OUR REDEMPTION

3 Prominent Examples

3 Redemption Passages

God's lens: All of life,
including our waits, serves
His Redemptive Purposes!

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