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The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

LIFE NEWS

THE WAIT

BY GORDON LANPHER
CHILDREN'S PASTOR

"Tomorrow, we will get ice cream," but sometimes it is a mistake to tell a small child these things in advance unless you want to hear about it for the next 20 hours. "You have two more months of high school" is the worst thing you can say to a senior in high school. "Three more years and you can retire" can bring weariness to those wanting to move on to the next stage of their life. Waiting is not something we are naturally good at doing. Waiting does not come easy.

The people of God waited many times over their history. Being slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years, they waited for someone to rescue them.

They were captives in Babylon for decades before they returned to the promise land. All this waiting for God to rescue them with a promise of the Messiah; the someone who would once and for all save them. This is what God had promised.

Yet, the Messiah did not come. Hundreds upon hundreds of years they waited for this promise. Not just any promise but a promise from the LORD. How long must we wait is a frequent cry in the Psalms? When there is no glimpse of a Messiah coming, how would you feel? How long would you wait before you began to focus on something else other than the promise?

God suddenly breaks in, announcing his plan to a teenager and then to her fiancé. Mary was going to carry the Messiah. Nine months and the longed-for promise would come; the waiting for the Messiah would be over. Although it made no sense and wasn't like any display of power and might, the Son of God became human.

This is part of what we celebrate during the Advent season. The other part is we still wait. We wait on the second coming of Christ. The day that Jesus will come again and set

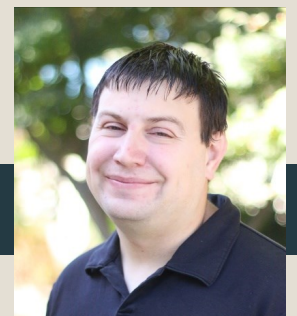
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everything right again. He will come to correct all injustices. He will come again for a spotless bride. He will come, and every knee will bow, and tongue confess that he is LORD. He will bring peace and righteousness to the whole world.

Friends, don't you long for the second coming? It's the ache of waiting. Yet, our waiting isn't futile. It is built with the seed of promise. There is a hope in our waiting whether it is 24 hours from now, a decade, or 1,000 years. King Jesus is coming! It is part of the advent season to engage this longing. We know that the world isn't right yet, and we long for the second coming of the Messiah. Jesus will someday finish what he started and usher in the fullness of his kingdom.

Don't rush into Christmas. It's less than 10 days away. Let this ache drive you to prayer. Wait... Wait... Wait... Wait... and Wait... Then Celebrate with fullness and wonder the mystery of the Incarnation on Christmas day.

The Word became flesh and
made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory,
the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.
John 1:14



*Gordon Lanpher
Children's Pastor*

