

Behind the Scenes

Sermon Questions | 5.1.16

Opener

Sometimes waiting can be a very difficult thing to do. Whether we are waiting for good news, test results, or a problem to be solved, at the heart of waiting is a longing for a desired outcome. Our individual situations may be different, but in regard to our belief in Christ, we long for a time when our faith is made sight, when all of the promises of Scripture are fulfilled, and when we see Jesus face to face.

Name a time that you had to wait for something that you wanted with all your heart. How did it make you feel to wait? What was the outcome of your waiting? Did what you want to happen come to fruition? If you received what you were waiting for, did it meet your expectations?

Read

[Daniel 7:1-28](#)

[2 Thessalonians 2:3-10](#)

[Matthew 25:31-34](#)

Engaging with God in a Group

1. It is an incredible thing that as believers, we are considered God's holy ones. Besides salvation, what are some of the benefits we receive with our inheritance as his holy people? (See Daniel 7:18, 22, 27)
2. What do you think it means for us that in the new heavens and new earth "the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High"? (See also Matthew 25:34)
3. When you think about heaven, what do you imagine it will be like? Will there be angels perched on fluffy clouds strumming their golden harps? Does your picture of heaven include constant praise music, pearly gates, or precious homecomings with loved ones? For some, their hopes of heaven include a beach, or mountains, or a golf course. What is yours?

4. There is much debate on the timing of when Christ's return will happen and what the events leading up to it will be like. Daniel 7 gives us a glimpse of what will happen in those days, but as Pete said, we do not know for sure what "a time, times and half a time" means exactly. Do you ever find yourself dwelling on the identity of who the Antichrist is, what the tribulation will be like, or the timing of Christ's return?

Engaging with God Alone

- Write out Daniel 7:22, 26-27 and Matthew 25:34 on notecards and meditate on them this week. If you have fear about his return or the Antichrist, tell him. Allow the truth from these verses to wash over you.
- C.S. Lewis once said, "I am sure that God keeps no one waiting unless He sees that it is good for him to wait." In your time alone with Jesus, ask him to help you in your times of waiting - to give you patience, peace, and trust.

Closing thoughts and prayer

Because of our security in him, we do not have to fear his return, but can look forward in awe of what lies ahead. The waiting may be difficult and filled with struggle, but it is temporary. The marvelous experience of heaven will outmatch any expectation that we have of it. Thank God that he has pronounced judgment in favor of you, his Holy people, because of his Son. As a group, go around the circle and share one word of how it makes you feel that he looks on you with favor and has given you his kingdom as an inheritance.