

Advent 4: Waiting: 2 Pet 3:1-15a

Sunday, December 18, 2022
Covenant Church
Pastor Zack Phillips

2 Pet 3:1-15a

1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you; in them I am trying to arouse your sincere intention by reminding you **2** that you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken through your apostles. **3** First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!" **5** They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, **6** through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. **7** But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless.

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. **9** The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? **13** But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; **15** and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation...

A. Introduction

Importance of "waiting" in Scripture and Christian life (Mark 15:43; Rom 8:23-25; 1 Thess 1:10). What does it mean to "wait"?

B. Waiting is a Time of Preparation

1. Five parables

The Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-30//Luke 19:11-27) • The Parable of the Watchful Slaves (Luke 12:35-40) • The Parable of The Faithful or Unfaithful Slave (Luke 12:41-48) • The Necessity for Watchfulness (Mark 13:32-37//Matt 24:36-44//Luke 21:34-36) • The Parable of the Ten bridesmaids (Matt 25:1-13)

2. Synthesis and Lessons

- The Day comes unexpectedly (even to the Son!)
- In the face of this uncertainty, the human tendency is towards unpreparedness (no oil, unlocked door), sloth (not doing their job), eating and drinking (merrily), and cruelty/oppression.
- In contrast to this tendency, the “wise,” “good,” “faithful,” “blessed” servant will be prepared/ “alert”/ “ready”/ “on your guard” (lit lamps, locked doors), hardworking (making talents, doing his job), praying (for strength/endurance and worthiness). He will not be “asleep”: just going about life’s business (eating, drinking, marrying, worrying about “this life”).

Urgency, purpose, intentionality, vigilance!

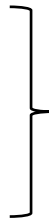
C. Waiting is a Time of Hastening

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed by Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



The “content of the Kingdom”

→ = “Give us *today* the coming/*future* bread” = Messianic Feast

→ Pre-Messianic Tribulations

Question: Are you looking forward to the Lord’s coming?

D. God is the One Waiting Patiently

Question: What is one thing that God may have said to you through this sermon?