

# Coach House Church BEACONS

---

## WAITING

---

23RD JULY 2020

A definition of waiting is "To abstain from action or departure till some expected event occurs." I think one of the main requirements of waiting is to have patience. When I was about thirteen years old I was sent home from school at lunchtime on one particular day; in fact everyone was sent home then from the school because a strong blizzard was expected to hit, and it was feared that the buses would have to stop running because of the storm. Heavy snowfall began in the late morning, and by lunchtime, when I made my way out of school to catch the first of three buses that I needed to get to and from school (there were no school-runs back then, certainly not what is meant by school-run today, anyway) the heavy snowfall had become a raging blizzard. When I got off the second bus to make my way to another stop for the third bus, I slipped on the snow and fell. The severe pain from my left arm announced a new experience for me – a broken arm! As I lay there winded, the blizzard was burying me. I somehow got up and had to struggle to walk through the blizzard the rest of the way home, because I couldn't use my left hand to get my bus pass out of my pocket for the third bus that I needed. I was carrying a brief case too!

Well the upshot of this was that I eventually wound up in the casualty department of a local hospital, and I had to wait hours and hours in agony to be attended to, after the initial x-ray, because I had eaten lunch before leaving school and I needed a general anaesthetic. That was one of the longest, most unpleasant waits of my life to date.

In 586BC, the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah had possibly the worst experience of his life, when he had to watch his beloved city Jerusalem and the first Temple being destroyed and burned by the armies of the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. Those of the people who weren't massacred were hauled off to exile in Babylon; only a few poor people were spared and allowed to stay in Judea. Jeremiah

described himself as, "The man who has seen affliction by the rod of his [God's] wrath". (Lamentations 3:1.) The Jewish people were now going to have to wait seventy years and a change of empires before they could return to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple and their nation.

Waiting is a subject that runs through the Bible. God waited 120 years for the Ark to be built; Abraham waited 25 years for the son of promise, Isaac, to be born; Israel had to endure a wait of over 400 years of enslavement in Egypt before the deliverer came; it was a wait of about 4,000 years before the woman's seed, Messiah Jesus, came to crush Satan's head and deal with sin and death; so far the Church has been waiting about 2,000 years for her heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus, to take her home.

So, yes, waiting is certainly something that is expected of us. There is a passage in Lamentations (a book written by Jeremiah) that talks of waiting: chapter 3, verses 22 – 27.

***22 "Because of the loving devotion of the LORD we are not consumed,  
for His mercies never fail.***

***23 They are new every morning;  
great is Your faithfulness!***

***24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in Him."***

***25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,  
to the soul who seeks Him.***

***26 It is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.***

***27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke  
while he is still young."***

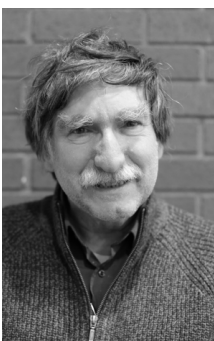
We are encouraged to wait for the Lord in all the circumstances of our lives. Because God is faithful to all His promises, we are encouraged not to lose hope. Joseph endured some years of waiting in a prison in Egypt until he was made ruler of all Egypt under Pharaoh. It would seem to be God's way of building up His people to trust Him for the fulfilment of His promises.

We now have a society where everything is expected instantly; but God is not like that. And He is never early and never late.

Peter tells us in 2 Peter 2: 8, 9 that with the Lord a thousand days are as a year and a thousand years are as a day; and that the Lord is not slack concerning His promise. Peter was answering those who were wanting to know why God was apparently dragging His feet.

So, God uses waiting in our lives with Him to make our faith stronger. In Ecclesiastes 3:11 we are told that God makes everything beautiful in His time. So, whatever waiting you are experiencing in your life right now, if you know the Lord then commit the waiting period to Him. Trust Him to bring you through.

Let's pray: Dear Lord, we see in Your Word that waiting is often required of Your people. Please help us to remember that You do this to build up our faith in You and in Your purposes for our lives, knowing that this is for our good and for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.



---

**STEVE WENT**



*Coach House Church*

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn