

# I will WAIT on the LORD

“But **they that wait upon the LORD** shall renew [their] strength;  
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;  
they shall run, and not be weary;  
[and] they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

## THE MEANING OF WAITING ON THE LORD

The great prophets were loved by God. He sent them to a rebellious people to warn them and teach them. God gave His prophets eyes to see wickedness at work and ears to understand the workings of deceit. Their job was one filled with sorrow and persecution. They were troubled by the depths wickedness that had crept into every home and governing body. Habakkuk cried out to God in despair.

“How long, O LORD, must I call for help,  
But you do not listen?  
Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’  
But you do not save?  
‘Why do you make me look at injustice?  
**Why do you tolerate wrong?**  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
There is strife, and conflict abounds.  
Therefore, **the law is paralyzed,**  
And justice never prevails.  
**The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted**”  
(Habakkuk 1:2-4).

God replied, “For the vision is yet for **the appointed time**; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, **wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay**” (Habakkuk 2:3).

“Wait for the LORD to act for it will certainly come, it will not delay” are God’s promised words. Waiting on the LORD is patiently enduring persecution by the wicked and the spiritually weak. Waiting on the LORD is accepting the punches that come from spiritually lost people enslaved by Wickedness. Waiting on the LORD is giving time for people to repent. Waiting on the LORD is allowing God to be the Judge and build His case against unrepentant people.

From God’s responses, Habakkuk learned of the extent that Almighty God is willing to endure and allow wickedness to work, so that people—**all people** come into repentance.

“This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth**” (1 Timothy 2:4).

“Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Lord GOD. Wouldn't **I prefer that he turn from his ways and live?**” (Ezekiel 18:23)

“For **I take no pleasure in anyone's death**, declares the Lord GOD. **So repent and live!**” (Ezekiel 18:32).

“For **God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him**” (John 3:17).

### **HOW WAITING ON THE LORD WAS UNDERSTOOD BY THE GREAT PROPHETS**

Habakkuk understood the great distress that would come upon his people because of their rebellious ways and learned that a repentance would occur for his people sometime in the future and he concluded, “Yet **I will wait patiently** for the day of calamity to come **on the nation invading us**” (Habakkuk 3:16b). He confirmed in his last words that God would eventually punish the destroyers. He felt their movements and wrote, “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, **yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior**” (Habakkuk 3:17-18). God is our Savior using Wickedness to punish His people as **He corrects them and brings them back to Him**. That is the joyful moment Habakkuk felt.

Waiting on the LORD means that the saints patiently take the punches from the weak, lost and wayward people living in a broken world bent on destroying itself, so that the witness of the gospel may reach all of them and in deep sincerity, they hope it brings them into repentance and in-love with our God and Father in heaven. The witness of mankind's salvation and the love Almighty God has for all of mankind will go out to all the world during times of extreme distress. During this time, the descendants of ancient Israel their sons and daughters will take the gospel and witness to the whole world.

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. **Your sons and daughters will prophesy**, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions” (Joel 2:28).

During times of great persecution, the saints will not be afraid. They will confidently stand against Satan and his beastly coalition to bring God's word to the whole world. Men and women will put their lives on the line to save deceived and tricked mankind by revealing truth, encouraging repentance and spreading God's word worldwide despite the wave of hatred against them.

“And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down—he who accuses them day and night before our God. **They have**

**conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. And they did not love their lives so as to shy away from death”** (Revelation 12:10-11).

### **CHRIST COMMANDED THE FAITHFUL TO ENDURE PATIENTLY**

The history of mankind, both past and present, may come to appear that Wickedness is overpowering Righteousness, but that is not the case. Rather, God is testing all people, God is purifying and strengthening the weak and confirming the strong. It was all planned a very long time ago.

A raging fallen son ruling over Assyria bragged of his destructive achievements to God.

“With my many chariots I have ascended the heights of the mountains [powerful governments, the utmost heights of Lebanon [God’s headquarters in heaven], I have cut down its tallest trees [overthrown God’s great leaders in His headquarters], the choices of its pines [well-respected leaders overthrown], I have reached its remotest heights, and the finest of its forest [regiments of leaders]... With the soles of my feet I have dried up all the streams of Egypt” (Isaiah 37:24-25).

God responded, "Have you not heard? **Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass, that you have turned fortified cities into piles of stone**" (Isaiah 37:26).

God begins His response with, “Have you not heard?” God has not shared His complete plan with the angels in heaven. This fallen angel had not heard how God works and God knows that. He is telling this rogue, fallen son that He remains in charge. God uses the most powerful of the fallen angels to overthrow the less powerful wicked. Eventually, the most powerful of the fallen will be brought down.

During these battles taking place in heaven and on earth, the Apostle John recorded, “He [the beast] was given power **to make war against the saints and to conquer them...** He who has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. **This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints**” (Revelation 13:9-10).

This will not be a time to be faint or shy away from death and choose to compromise or turn away from God. A focus on God’s grand plan will bring great strength as the saints stand up against Wickedness remaining loyal to God and His ways that bring peace, respect and honour one for another.

As God begins to destroy the wicked, they increase and intensify their attacks on the saints. “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury... There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who received the mark of his name.’ **This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus**” (Revelation 14:9, 12).

The saints will endure patiently and wait on the LORD because they too, sincerely hope the nations will repent and come into the loving and peaceful family of God. They too, want to see everyone saved.

#### **FOUR CHURCHES OF REVELATION ENDURE PATIENTLY WAITING ON THE LORD**

##### **EPHESUS**

“You **have persevered and have patience**, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary” (Revelation 2:3).

##### **SMYRNA**

“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful, even to the point of death**, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown” (Revelation 2:10).

##### **THYATIRA**

“I know all the things you do. I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and **your patient endurance**. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things” (Revelation 2:19).

##### **PHILADELPHIA**

“Since **you have kept my command to endure patiently**, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth” (Revelation 3:10).

The people within these four different groups holding four different responsibilities in God’s kingdom of priests are patiently enduring during Jacob’s trouble. They see God’s plan for mankind. They desire that everyone repent and come into God’s family. Though they have known the truth for a long time, they will not grow weary, but remain strong under God despite the persecution and the relentless attacks during a time of great deception.

#### **THE THREE CHURCHES OF REVELATION NOT MENTIONED**

##### **PERGAMUM**

Christ comes to this group of people with a two-edged sword. The sword is symbolic of the word of God. Two-edged is the very clear, uncompromising word of God that will be a sharp action that exposes lies, deception, misinformation and disinformation. These people may be the teachers, researchers and scholars who love delving into knowledge, but among them are the scholars teaching and promoting a different history of mankind.

This group of people are located where Satan has his throne, which into the 21st century may be among those who preach his theology: science without God, medicine without God, technology without God, all knowledge without God. This centre of learning without God are all of the schools, universities, research centres, and learning facilities that have rejected God in their teachings.

There are Christians who spend their whole life studying God's word. They research ancient writings, study languages, translations, and supporting writings from endless sources. They pass judgment on scriptural meaning and publish their work, but their publications have inaccuracies. That is why Christ appears with the double-edged sword. He stands before them to pierce through the layers into their inner soul to discern their deep thoughts and intentions.

These people tolerate the teaching of Balaam who taught Balak how to get the ancient Israelites to sin against God. Balak taught ancient Israel to compromise the word of God and accept false teachings as if they have merit. Some of the people of this group may compromise, while others may not, still the compromise is allowed and Christianized to show a stamp of approval.

Christ urges these people to repent or "he will fight against them with the word of his mouth" (Revelation 2:16).

### **SARDIS**

These are a people who are truly in trouble. Their work is incomplete and they are about to die, that is, become totally wicked. It is any wonder that Jesus is with the seven spirits of God and the seven angels of the seven churches. These people, like the people in Ephesus, do a global work within Christianity. Their work professes to be noble and pure, which it may have been initially, but it has deteriorated to such an extent that Jesus consults the seven spirits of God.

Isaiah 11:2 identifies the seven spirits of God. "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."

- (1) Spirit of the LORD (the Holy Spirit)
- (2) Spirit of wisdom
- (3) Spirit of understanding
- (4) Spirit of counsel
- (5) Spirit of power
- (6) Spirit of knowledge
- (7) Spirit of the fear of the Lord.

The Sardis group may have had a focus to genuinely care for the needy, homeless, widows and fatherless and over time, organizations, foundations and charities formed. However, today, scandals of how donations are being used is coming to light. If these organizations are pocketing most of the donations or abusing the use of funds, they indeed would be in trouble with God, for they claim to serve the poor and needy, which God considers to be pure religion (James 1:27).

Jesus is warning them to stop and return to their original focus of being the **righteous** people who truly care for and protect the homeless, the fatherless, the vulnerable and those plunged

into distress from a catastrophe: natural or manmade. Today, they are close to having their names erased from the book of life, only a small few are honest and truly serving, such an example may be the doctors without borders and those who fund and prepare relief packages.

The work of “pure religion” will explode in the early years of the Millennium. These people will be in high demand. People who can reach those in need, organize relief packages, provide solutions to needs while life remains physical, as well as, implement mechanisms for spiritual healing and growth. This work is precious and into eternity the need will not go away. Spiritual growth will always need the righteous supporters of pure religion.

### **LAODICEA**

Jesus speaks to this group of people with assuredly: the Amen and the faithful and true witness bringing a claim against them. They are a luke-warm people, who hold lofty claims of themselves. They trumpet their wealth of spiritual knowledge and claim to understand all scriptures. They need nothing. These people are many; they are bold and confident.

These people are part of many churches under different names. They believe that they are worshipping God fully. They lift up their arms and sing, but they are not careful to obey God's commandments, His ordinances, His Sabbath, His Holy Days. They know that Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and even though the Apostle Paul warned Christians “not to be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings...” (Hebrews 13:9), they do not apply “strange teachings” to their church doctrines that are not what Jesus taught. Many have been caught up into a mass movement. They think there is safety in the numbers on the wide road and the few on the narrow road are outdated.

The importance of testing, re-testing, re-researching and researching again and again will be the lesson for all Christians. Ultimately, those who are **humble and leaning on Christ** will carefully follow him and reap rewards beyond human imagination.

### **THE REWARDS THAT COME FROM WAITING ON THE LORD**

The prophet Isaiah recorded,

“But **they that wait upon the LORD** shall renew [their] strength;  
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;  
they shall run, and not be weary;  
[and] they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Eternal life and being a royal, ruling member in God' glorious family is the reward. Being intimately close to our Father in heaven is the precious gift that the saints hold dear to their heart. The Apostle Paul fully understood the little sacrifice on this earth compared to the glorious gift of eternal life with our beloved Husband, Jesus Christ and our enduring Friend, our Father in heaven.

“And if we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ—if **indeed we suffer with Him**, so that we may also be glorified with Him. **I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us**” (Romans 8:17-18).

## **WHAT IT MEANS TO GOD WHEN PEOPLE COME TO HIM AND PATIENTLY WAIT FOR HIM**

God the Father loves the Son, Jesus Christ. The tested stone, the corner stone of the kingdom that Almighty God is building is Jesus Christ of whom God Almighty is so very proud. "But about the Son he says, **'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. But about the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom'**" (Hebrews 1:8-9).

Indeed, God Almighty the source of all power and might honours the Son, Jesus Christ with the title "O God, your throne will last forever." This is not a small matter because Jesus said that those who repent, accept his sacrifice and live with Christ in them are loved by God as much as God Almighty loves His Son.

"I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and **that you love them as much as you love me**" (John 17:23).

How is it that God, our Father in heaven can love a fallen creation though repentant and covered by Christ as much as His perfect Son? God says, "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and **I will not remember your sins**" (Isaiah 43:25).

"For I will forgive their iniquities and will **remember their sins no more**" (Hebrews 8:12).

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has **He removed our transgressions from us**" (Psalms 103:12).

God is truly love and He is determined to bring all of mankind to Him. "Let the wicked man forsake his own way and the unrighteous man his own thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion, and to our God, for **He will freely pardon**" (Isaiah 55:7).

Our God, the God of Israel, is bountiful in mercy. "Your righteousness is like the highest mountains; Your judgments are like the deepest sea. O LORD, You preserve man and beast" (Psalm 36:6).

This wonderful God is excited about the repentance and future of mankind. In ancient times, He recorded His joy and He foresaw the return of His people with people from other nations and the rebuilding of His temple comprised of righteous, faithful, loyal subjects.

"The **righteous man will flourish like the PALM TREE**; he will **grow like a CEDAR** in Lebanon [a faithful and loyal leader in God's new headquarters]; **planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God**. They will still **bear fruit in old age**, they will **stay fresh and green**, proclaiming, **'The LORD is upright; he is my Rock**, and there is **no wickedness in him**" (Psalm 92:12-15).

God will sing with His devoted people. "In that day—**sing** about a **fruitful vineyard**: I, the LORD, am its keeper; I water it every moment. So that no one will damage it, I guard it night and day. I

**am not angry.** If only there were briars and thorns confronting me! I would march against them in battle; I would set them all on fire. **Or else let them come to me for refuge; LET THEM MAKE PEACE WITH ME, YES, LET THEM MAKE PEACE WITH ME"** (Isaiah 27:3-5).

God does not exclude anyone on earth who are descendants of Adam and Eve from His royal, holy family. **"Let no foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord** say, "The LORD will surely exclude me from his people" (Isaiah 56:3).

All who go to God will be welcomed. **"And FOREIGNERS who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, and love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, and all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—THESE I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.** Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for **my house will be called A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS"** (Isaiah 56:6-7).

Those who wait on the LORD will witness the great exodus of people out of Wickedness into the family of God. It will be the joy they will remember forever; it will never diminish over time. The presence of those who overcome will stand tall like a gold medal awarded to Olympic winners. These winners fought against an enemy fixated on their destruction and determined to overthrow every trace of righteousness. Joy will heal the scars of suffering as the family of God both in heaven and earth unite as one righteous body serving their Creator God under the Kingship and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich*