

A Theology of Waiting



Confession:
I don't like
waiting





prime

amazon

prime

prime



STREAMING SERVICE



NETFLIX

Chick-fil-A

9'-0"

9'-0"

PRIVATE EVENT
JAN. 14TH
INVITATION ONLY
Closed Sunday





Waiting is a problem
to be solved-
a failure of the system

2026



Your
life

The Bible treats waiting almost
exactly the opposite way

God does not work around waiting
— He works through it.



Waiting is woven into the Biblical story



Waiting has a rich vocabulary!!!

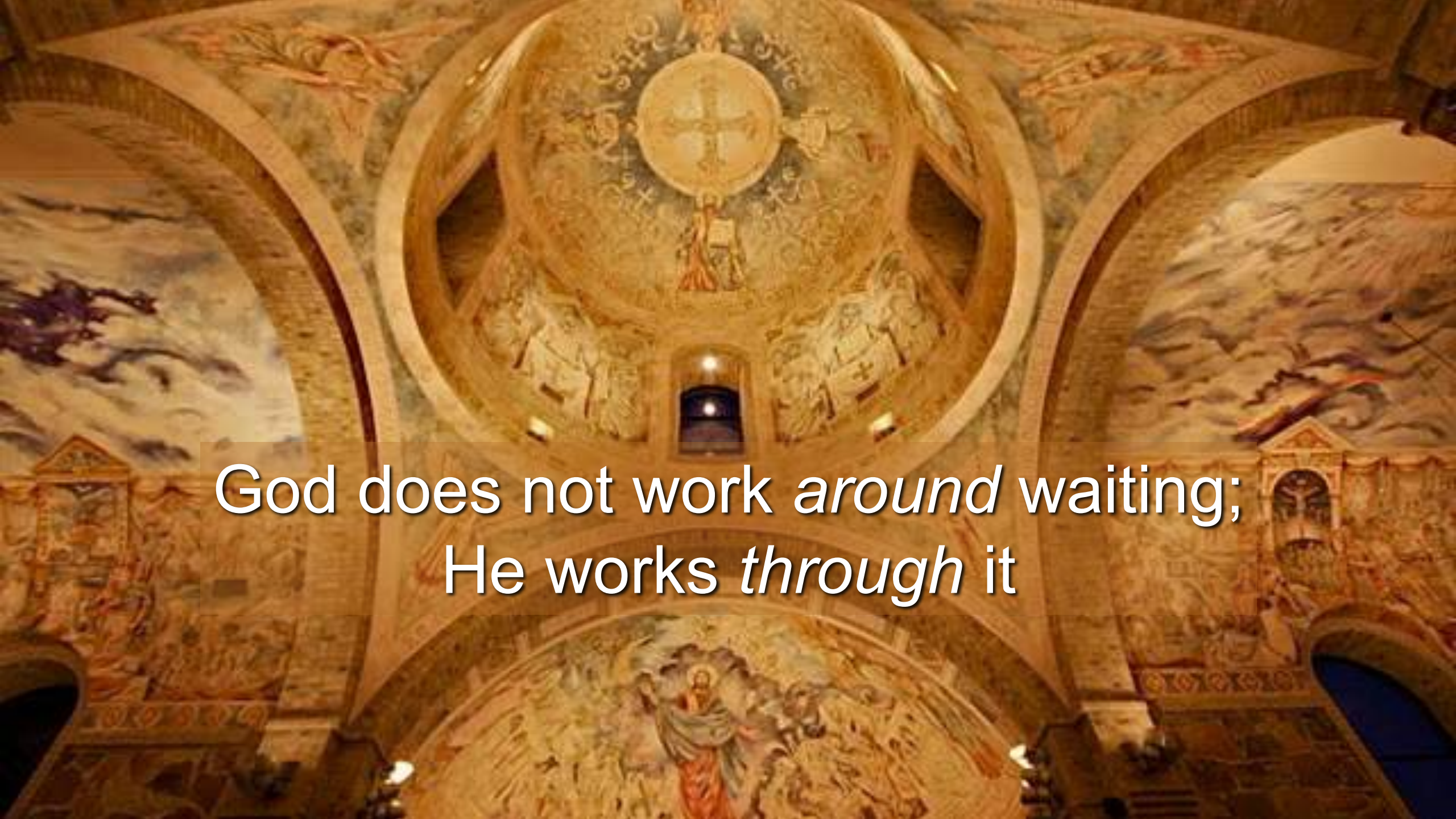


Waiting is spiritually productive



Waiting is woven into the Biblical story



The image shows the interior of a grand, ornate church. The central feature is a large, vaulted dome with a circular opening at its base. The dome's interior is covered in intricate mosaics, including a central circular medallion with a cross and a figure. Below the dome, the walls are also covered in detailed mosaics, depicting various religious scenes and figures. The architecture is characterized by large, rounded arches and a rich, golden-brown color palette. The lighting is warm and focused, highlighting the textures and colors of the mosaics.

God does not work *around* waiting;
He works *through* it

The arc of Scripture has a “waiting” metanarrative



The arc of Scripture has a “waiting” metanarrative

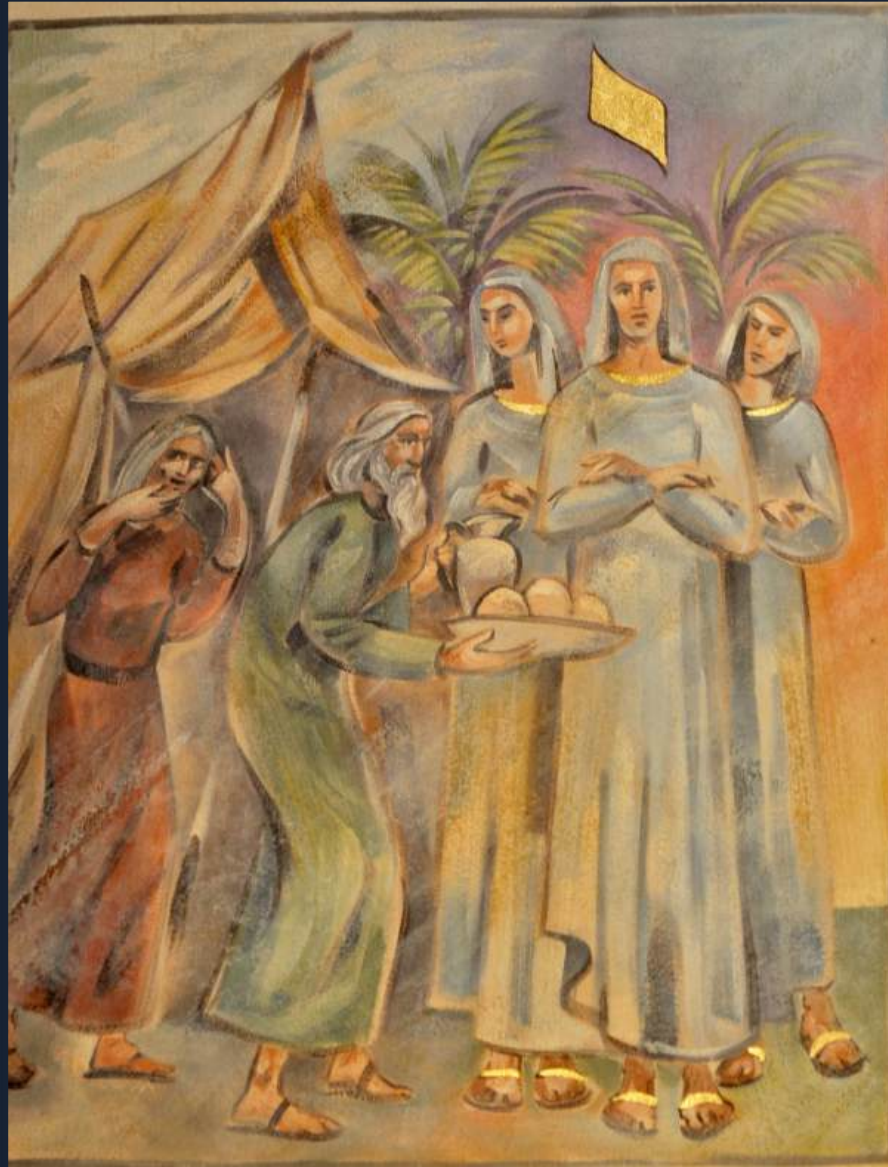


OT

Abraham & Sarah

Waiting for the promised son

25 years



The arc of Scripture has a “waiting” metanarrative

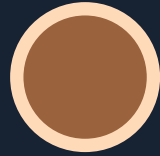


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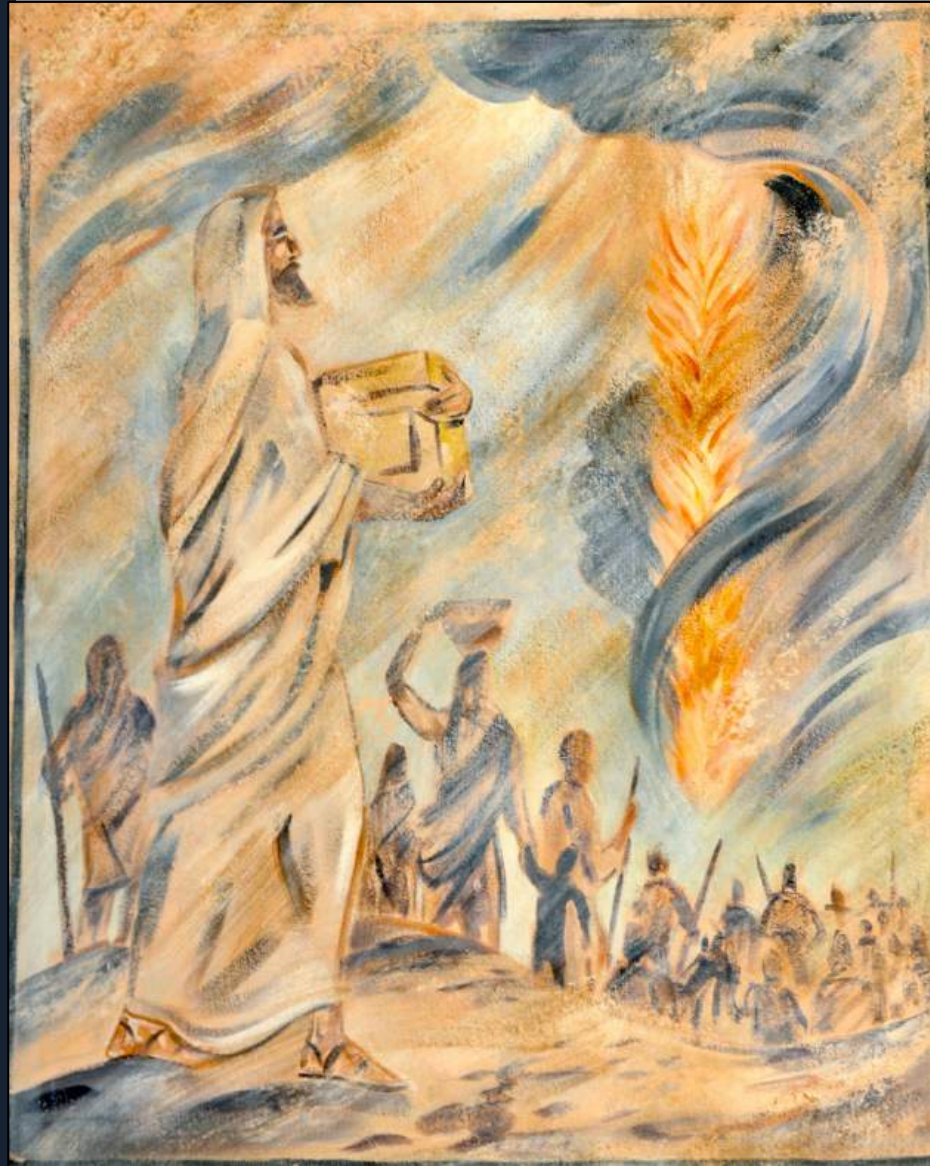


OT

Israel in
Egypt

Waiting for
deliverance

400 years



NT

John
anna

Waiting for
Messiah

decades



NOW

The
Church

Waiting for
Christ's return

2,000+ yrs

The arc of Scripture has a “waiting” metanarrative



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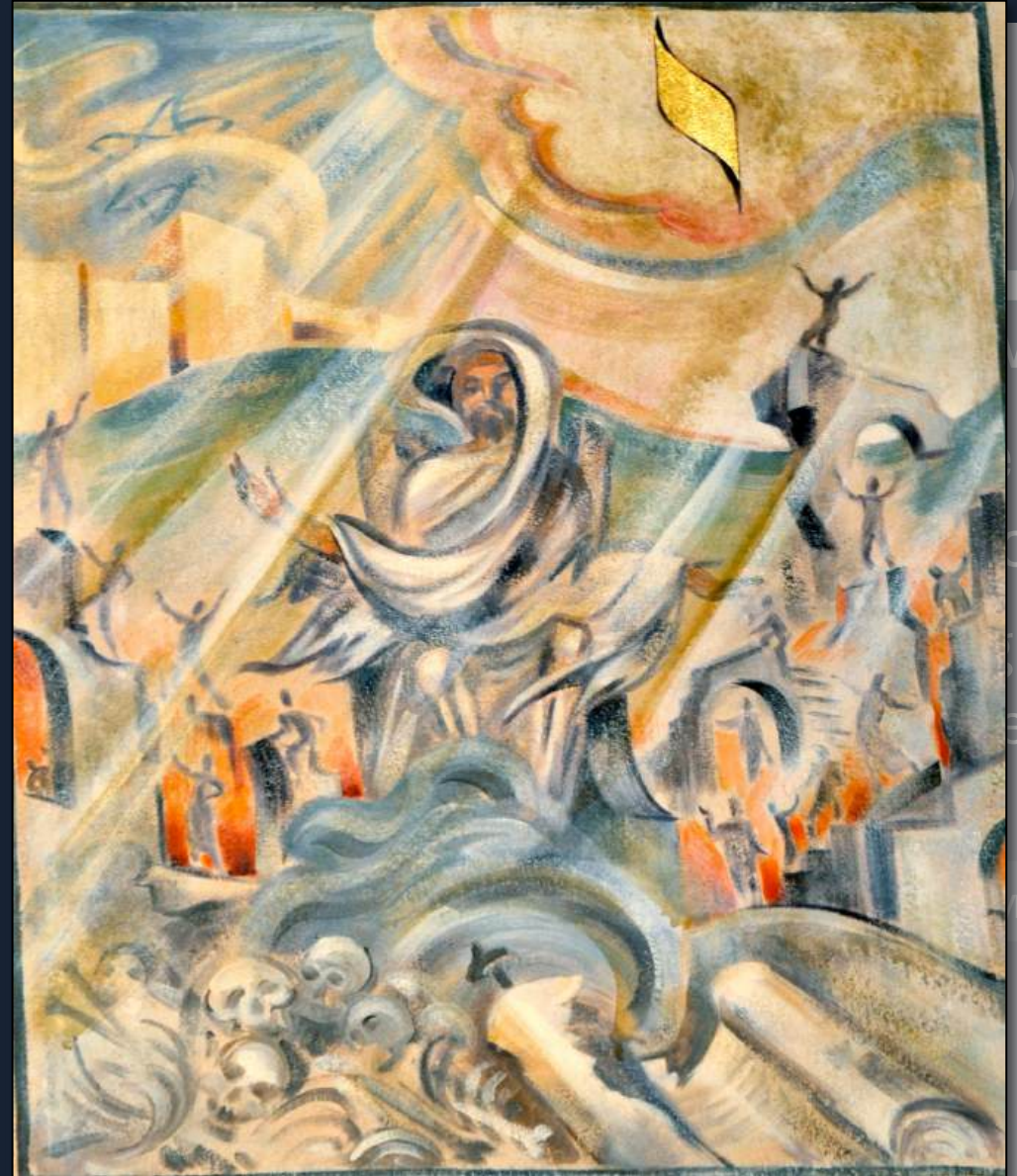


OT

The
Exile

Waiting for
restoration

70 years



The arc of Scripture has a “waiting” metanarrative



INTER.

400 years
of silence
Waiting for a
word from God

400 years



NOW

The
Church

Waiting for
Christ's return

2,000+ yrs

The arc of Scripture has a “waiting” metanarrative



OT

Abraham
& Sarah

Waiting for the
promised son

25 years



NT

Simeon
& Anna

Waiting for
the Messiah

Decades

The arc of Scripture has a “waiting” metanarrative



NOW

The
Church

Waiting for
Christ's return

2,000+ yrs

The arc of Scripture has a “waiting” metanarrative



I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me... For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. (Hab. 2:1-3)



Hab 2:1-3

I will take my stand at
my watchpost and
station myself on the
tower, and **look out** to
see what he will say to
me...

Hab 2:1-3

עַל-מִשְׁמַרְתִּי
אֶעֱמְדָה וְאֶת־יְצֻבָה
עַל-מְצוֹר וְאֶצְפֶּה
לְרֹאוֹת
מַה-יִּדְבַּר-בִּי

Hab 2:1-3

For still the vision awaits
its appointed time; it
hastens to the end—it
will not lie. If it seems
slow, wait for it; it will
surely come; it will not
delay.

Hab 2:1-3

כִּי עוֹד תִּזְוֹן לְמוֹעֵד
וְיָפֵחַ לְקֶץ וְלֹא
יִכְזֹב אִם-יִתְמַהְמָה
חֲפָה-לוֹ כִּי-בֹא יָבֹא
לֹא יִאַחֵר:

Hab 2:1-3

For **still** the vision **awaits**
its appointed time; it
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חֲכִיָּה-לוֹ כִּי-בֹא יָבֹא
לֹא יִאֲחָר:

“Therefore the LORD waits to be
gracious to you” (Isa. 30:18)



The wait has a
fixed appointment.
God is **NOT** improvising!





Waiting is woven into the Biblical story



Waiting has a rich vocabulary!!!



Something stretched,
drawn taut



A cord, line, or
measuring string

“Waiting” as experienced tension



To wait or hope

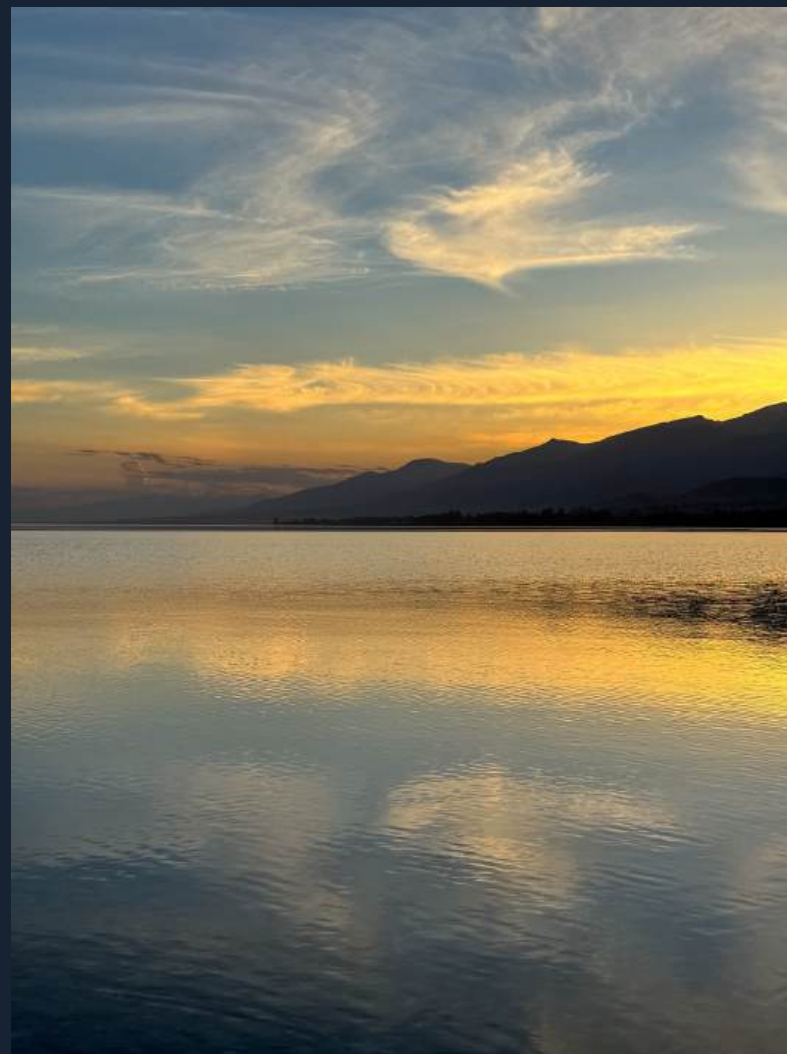


Expectant waiting

To be still, to cease



Calmly waiting





Eager awaiting



Leaning forward,
ready!

Something stretched,
drawn taut



A cord, line, or
measuring string

“Waiting” as experienced tension

Isa. 40:31

They who **wait** for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isa. 40:31

וְקוֹי יְהוָה יִחְלִיפוּ
כַּח יַעֲלוּ אֲבָר
כַּנְּשָׂרִים יָרוּצוּ וְלֹא
יִיגָעוּ יִלְכוּ וְלֹא
יִיָּעֲפוּ:

Think taut
cord,



Not clock
watching





While you are “waiting,”
God is working on you!!!



To wait or hope



Expectant waiting

Ps. 130:5-6

I wait for the LORD, my
soul waits, and in his
word I hope; my soul
waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for
the morning,
more than watchmen for
the morning.

Ps. 130:5-6

קוֹיִתִּי יְהוָה קוֹתָה
קוֹתָה וְלִדְבָרוֹ
נַפְשִׁי
הוֹחֲלֹתִי: נַפְשִׁי לֹא דָנִי
מִשְׁמָרִים לְבֹקֵר
שְׁמָרִים לְבֹקֵר:

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מִשְׁמָרִים לְבֹקֵר
שְׁמָרִים לְבֹקֵר:

Could it be?
Yes, it could.

Who knows?

If I can wait!

Something's
coming, something
good,

I got a feeling there's a
miracle due,
Gonna come true,
Coming to me!

It's only just
out of reach,
Down the block, on a beach,
under a tree.

It may come cannonballing
down through the sky,
Gleam in its eye,
Bright as a rose!

Who knows?
Could be!

There's something
due any day;
I will know right away,
Soon as it shows.

Something's coming, I
don't know what it is,
But it is
Gonna be great!

Ps. 130:5-6

I wait for the LORD, my
soul waits, and in his
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more than watchmen for
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מִשְׁמָרִים לְבֹקֵר
שְׁמָרִים לְבֹקֵר:



This isn't hope floating
in the abstract

It's a waiting hope
anchored in God's word!



Ps. 130:5-6

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soul waits, and in his
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waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for
the morning,
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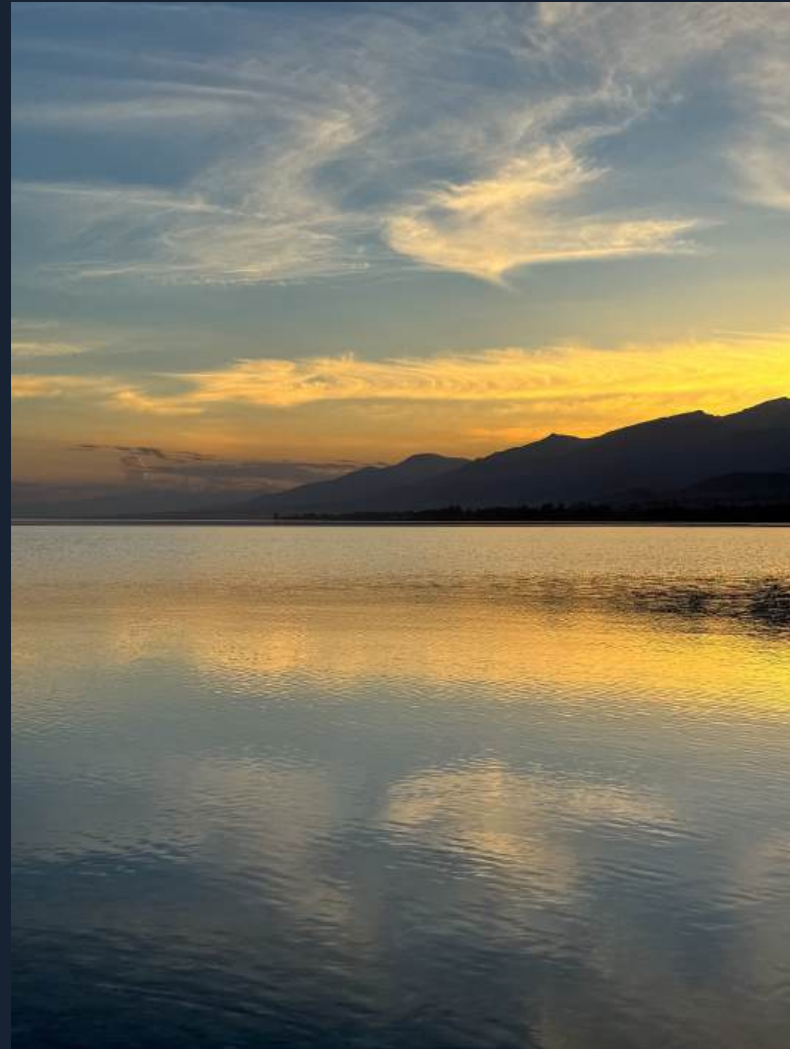
Ps. 130:5-6

קוֹיִתִּי יְהוָה קוֹתָה
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שְׁמָרִים לְבֹקֶר:

To be still, to cease



Calmly waiting



Ps. 62:1-2

For God alone my soul
waits in silence; from
him comes my
salvation. He alone is
my rock and my
salvation, my fortress; I
shall not be greatly
shaken.

Ps. 62:1-2(2-3)

אֵלֹהִים דּוֹמְמָה
נַפְשִׁי מִמָּנוּ יְשׁוּעָתִי:
אֵלֹהֵינוּ צוּרִי
וְיִשׁוּעָתִי מִשָּׁגְבִי
לֹא-אֶמוּט רַבָּה:

See the
“WHY”!

Ps. 62:1-2

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לֹא-אֶמוּט רַבָּה:



Eager awaiting



Leaning forward,
ready!

Rom. 8:23

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we **wait** eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Rom. 8:23

οὐ μόνον δέ, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτοὶ τὴν ἀπαρχὴν τοῦ πνεύματος ἔχοντες, ἡμεῖς καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐν ἑαυτοῖς στενάζομεν υἰοθεσίαν **ἀπεκδεχόμενοι**, τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν τοῦ σώματος ἡμῶν.

Rom. 8:24-25

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we **wait** for it with patience.

Rom. 8:24-25

τῇ γὰρ ἐλπίδι ἐσώθημεν·
ἐλπίς δὲ βλεπομένη οὐκ
ἔστιν ἐλπίς· ὁ γὰρ βλέπει
τίς ἐλπίζει; εἰ δὲ ὁ οὐ
βλέπομεν ἐλπίζομεν, δι'
ὑπομονῆς **ἀπεκδεχόμεθα.**



Waiting is woven into the Biblical story



Waiting has a rich vocabulary!!!



Waiting is spiritually productive

God does not just reward waiting
— He works through it.

Present suffering
and future glory

Rom. 8:18-25



Waiting produces
character



Rom. 8:24-25

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we **wait** for it with patience.

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John 11



OCHEVALIM TISTO SIME USLISIO I ZOVNU GLASNO LAZARE IZ

Waiting reveals God's
greater purpose



Lamenting in the rubble



Lam. 3:24-26

The LORD is my portion,”
says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in
him.”

Lam. 3:24-26

חֵלְקִי יְהוָה אֶמְרָה
נִפְנְשִׁי עַל־כֵּן אֶחֱיֵל
לוֹ:

Lam. 3:24-26

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



Waiting as experienced tension

Lam. 3:24-26

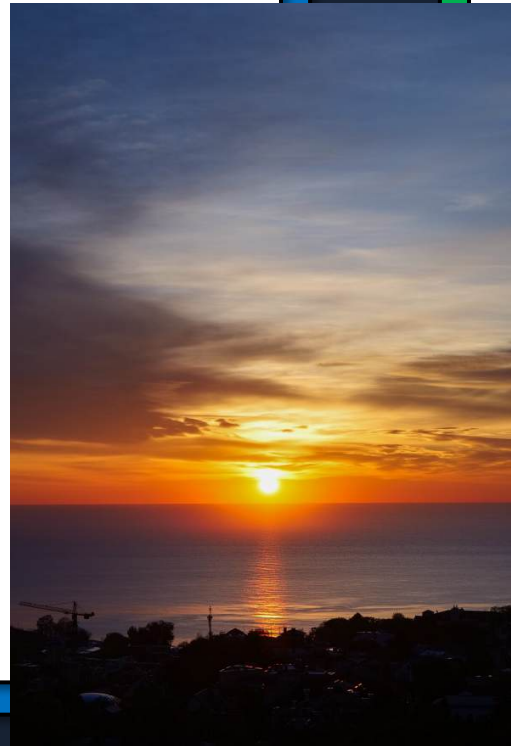
טוב יהוה לקוֹל לַנְּפֹשׁ
תִּדְרֹשׁנוּ:



Lam. 3:24-26

It is good that one
should **wait quietly**
for the salvation of the
LORD.

Expectant
waiting



Lam. 3:24-26

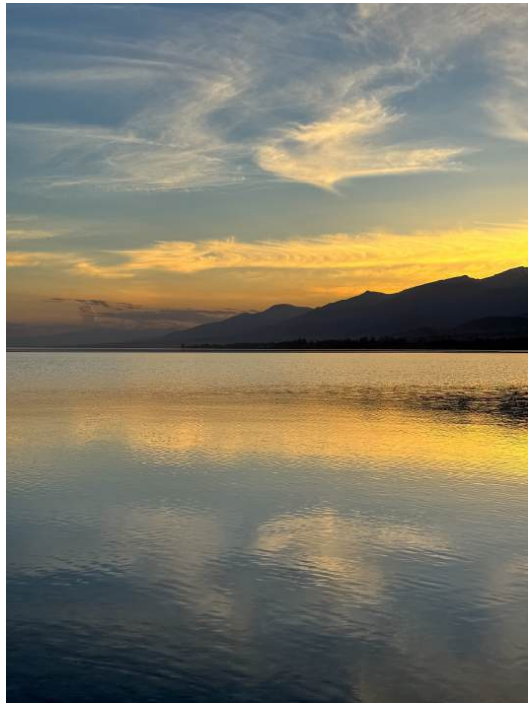
טוֹב יַחַל וְדוּמָם
לְתַשׁוּעַת יְהוָה:



Lam. 3:24-26

It is good that one
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LORD.

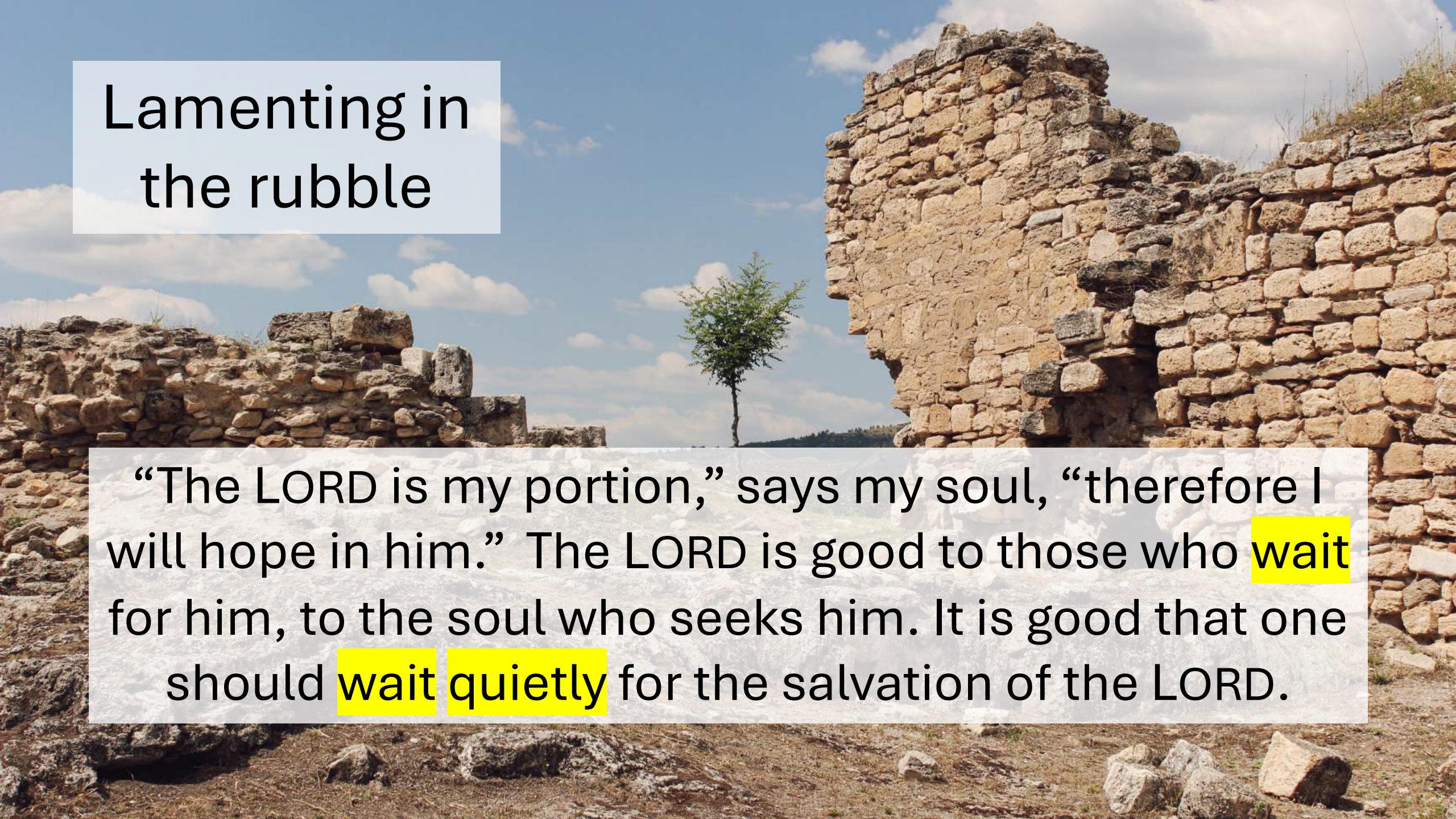
Calmly
waiting



Lam. 3:24-26

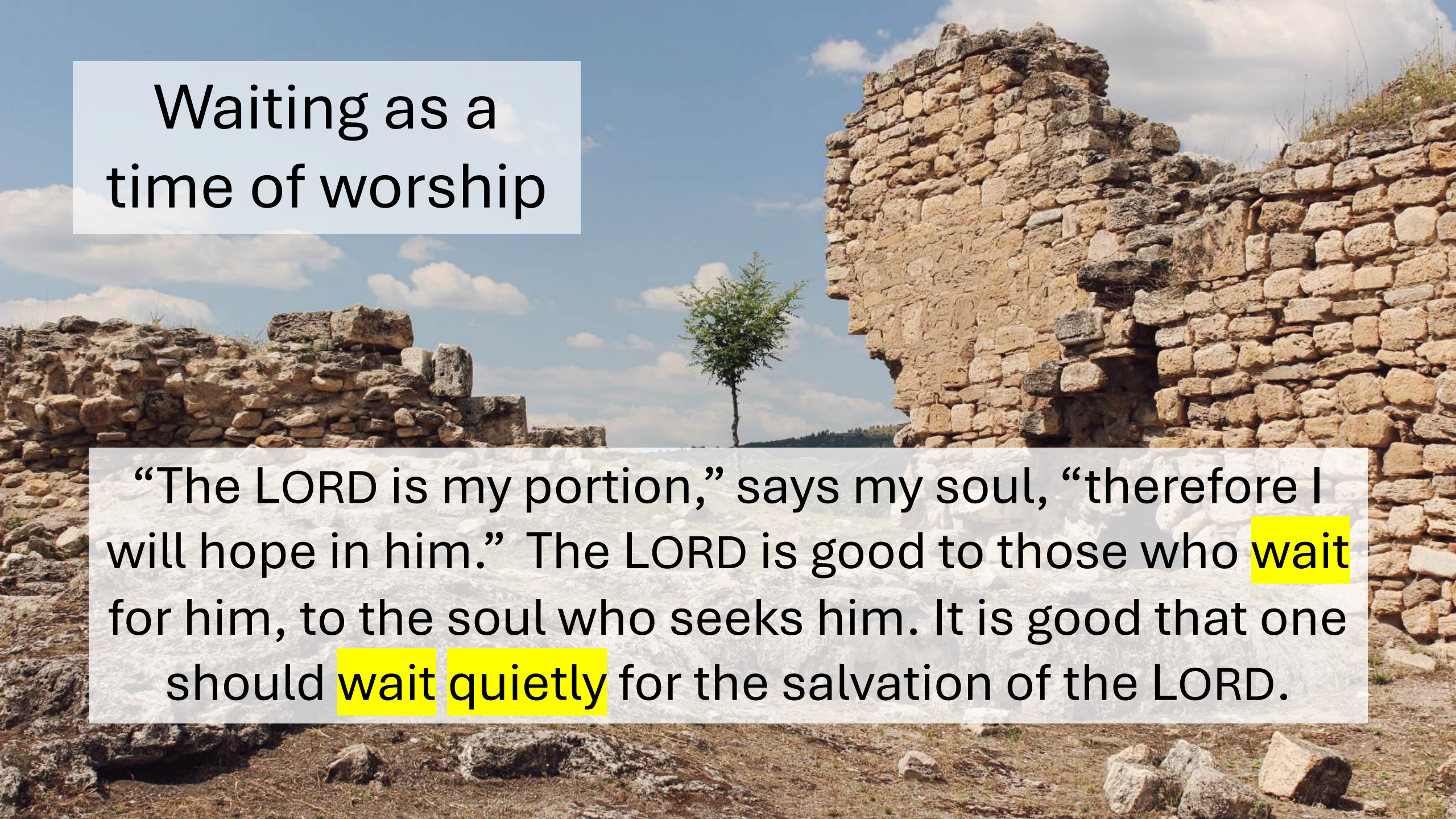
טוֹב וְיָחִיל וְדוּמָם
לְתַשׁוּעַת יְהוָה:





Lamenting in the rubble

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who **wait** for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should **wait quietly** for the salvation of the LORD.



Waiting as a time of worship

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who **wait** for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should **wait quietly** for the salvation of the LORD.



Points for
Home

Waiting is
Working Time!



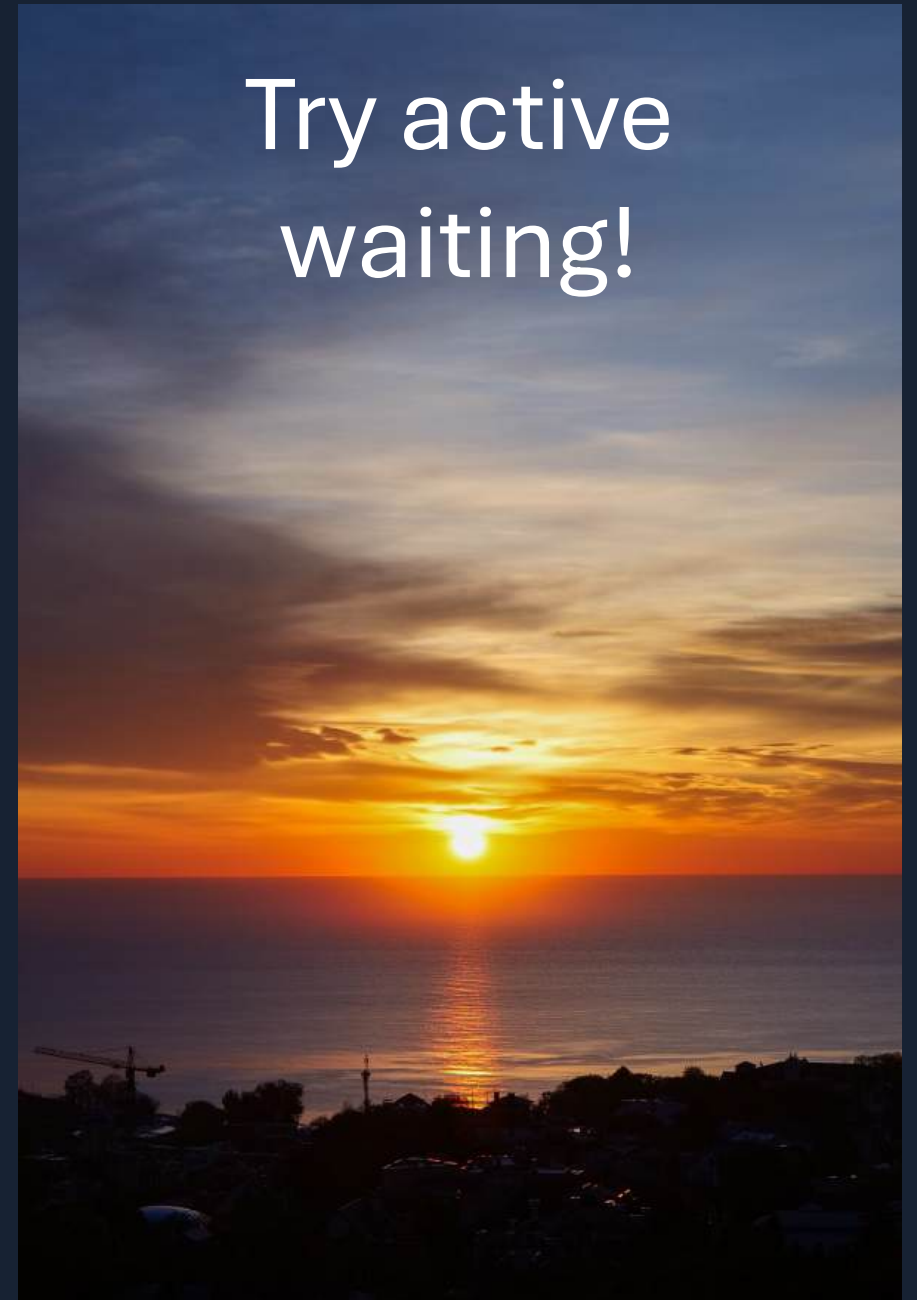
“They who wait for the LORD
shall renew their strength...”
(Isa. 40:31)



Points for Home

“I hope; my soul waits for the
Lord more than watchmen for
the morning” (Ps. 130:5-6)

Try active
waiting!





Points for Home



What are you
waiting for?

“we wait eagerly for adoption
as sons, the redemption of our
bodies” (Rom. 8:23)

A photograph of three people sitting at a table outdoors, eating lunch. On the left, a man in a white shirt is looking down at his food. In the center, a woman in a white shirt is looking towards the man on the right while eating. On the right, a man in a light blue shirt is looking towards the woman. They are all eating from white takeout containers. There are glasses of water and a plate of orange slices on the table. The background is a wooden wall.

Lunch topic:

What is something you are currently in a season of waiting about — and based on today's class, how would you describe the kind of waiting you've been doing?



Waiting is ***NOT*** a problem to be solved- a failure of the system

2026



Your
life

God does not work around waiting
— He works through it.

A Theology of Waiting

