



## **Anticipation:**

(It's Worth the Wait!)

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(December 1, 2019)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. ***The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9: 6-7)***

### ***Waiting for God to Show Up***

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. ***(Genesis 12:2-3)***

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. ***(Isaiah 9:6-7)***

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. ***(Micah 5:2)***

### ***He Showed Up at the Right Time***

***But when the time had fully come***, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ***(Galatians 4:4-5)***

- **Right Time Politically**

***Christmas Gifts  
Anticipation***

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **(Luke 2:1–4)**

- **Right Time Culturally**
- **Right Time Spiritually**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. **(Luke 2:25)**

### ***But God’s People are Still Waiting***

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. **(2 Peter 3:9)**

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. **(1 John 3:1–3)**

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

***(Revelation 21:3–4)***

### **Bottom Line:**

**We’re still waiting because the Best is Yet to Come!**

***Christmas Gifts  
Anticipation***

1. Share a time when you waited and hoped and longed for something present that you finally got at Christmas. What do you remember most about it? What was the hardest part for you? What was the best part?
2. Rate your ability to wait on a scale of 1-10.
3. **Read Genesis 12:2-3; Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2** and discuss the importance of these verses.
4. What difference does it make that God promised long ago that He would send a Savior into the world?
5. If you had been a Jew during the 400 years between the Old Testament and the birth of Christ, what would you be thinking about these promises?
6. **Read Galatians 4:4-5:** Based upon the things Bill talked about, what was happening in the world that made it the right time for Jesus to be born?
7. If God could orchestrate history so that Jesus was born "at the right time" what difference does that make for your life today?
8. **Read and discuss 2 Peter 3:8-9, Romans 8:22-24 and Revelation 21:3-4** What do we have to look forward to? Does knowing this help you in the waiting or not?
9. **What are you waiting on God for in your life today?**
10. **What do we have to look forward to in the future?**
11. **Pray for each other...**