



Waiting
Selected Scriptures
First Sunday of Advent
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
December 1, 2024

Waiting ... for what?

1. The first promise of the Savior. (Genesis 3:15)
2. The many promises of the Savior and His kingdom through the prophets—highlights from two prophets.
 - a. Isaiah.
(9:1-7; 11:1-16; 25:1–27:13; 29:17-34; 42:1-9; 52:13–53:12; 60:1-22; 61:1-11; 61:1-12)
 - b. Zechariah. (3:8; 8:1-23; 9:9-10; 11:11-13; 12:10; 13:1, 6; 14:1-21)

Waiting ... for how long?

1. Since the first sin. (Genesis 3:15)
2. Until Christ came. (Hebrews 11:1-40; Matthew 11:1-2; Luke 1:67-79; 2:21-32; 23:51)

Waiting ... For Us?

1. To celebrate Christ's first coming to earth.
(Matthew 1:18–2:12; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:9-18)
2. To anticipate Christ's second coming to earth.
(Matthew 24:1-31; John 14:1-3, 18, 28; Acts 1:6-11; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58;
1 Thessalonians 1:10; 3:13; 4:13-18; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 2:11-14;
James 5:7-8; 2 Peter 3:3-13; Revelation 1:7; 19:11–20:15; 22:20)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Waiting. Waiting often is difficult. During the exodus the people of Israel often had difficulty in waiting for God to provide for them and lead them into the land He promised them. Forty years of waiting. We don't know how many years and generations were between God's first promise of salvation in Genesis 3:15 and Christ's birth. Review the major historical flow of the Old Testament from the perspective of God's people waiting generation after generation for the great light of the Messiah to shine on them. Then review some of the Old Testament prophecies about the Savior and His kingdom (see the outline). What does their experience and the prophetic truth teach you about waiting, both positively and negatively?

Tuesday. Waiting. When Christ was born, when an angel suddenly appeared to the shepherds telling them He had been born, when a huge host of angels lit up the dark skies as they praised God, the waiting was over. What are we waiting for during Advent? The obvious answer is Christmas, the day we celebrate Christ's birth. Is celebrating Christ's birth really at the core of your thinking about and waiting for Christmas?

Wednesday. Waiting. Waiting does not equal being passive, putting your mind in neutral and sitting there. Even when we are waiting for something that is beyond our control, that waiting is not to be passive. The time of waiting for the celebration of Christ's birth should include a clear focus, priorities and preparation. Evaluate your focus and priorities for these weeks leading up to Christmas. How are you going to, how are you preparing yourself to celebrate Christ's birth?

Thursday. Waiting. There is one more aspect of waiting. Not only do we look back at Christ's coming to earth in Bethlehem, we look ahead to His second coming to earth. Jesus told us that He is now preparing a place for us with Him and that He will come again (see John 14:1-3). Jesus could return at any time, including today. Are you waiting, anticipating His return? Review the Bible references in the outline about His second coming that give us background and help us anticipate His return.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we will narrow our focus as we zoom in on *Preparing*. Review your thoughts and any notes you made on Wednesday to help you get ready for our worship on Sunday with the spotlight on *Preparing*.