



Sermon for Sunday, November 27, 2022

“The God of Hope”

SCRIPTURE: Romans 15: 12-13 ¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.” ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction: Advent, the Season of Waiting

Today is the first week of Advent. May the saving grace of Jesus Christ be abundantly upon you all. The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word “**adventus**” meaning “**coming**” or “**visit**,” begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation, and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. As such, Advent is a season of waiting.

Waiting is not new to us, but very familiar. Like this, waiting is a daily occurrence in our life. A farmer who sows seeds in the spring waits for a bountiful harvest in the fall. Parents wait to pick up their children from after-school activities or from school. Also, there is a wait in people's life plans to achieve their dreams.

However, there are some of us waiting with hope for the future, but there are also some that are not. For example, a person who endures severe pain and waits for an operation is afraid and anxious to wait. Also, if the heart of a person facing death is not prepared for death, it will be hopeless.

On the other hand, there are beautiful things that make us happy while waiting. The wait for the bride and groom ahead of the wedding is full of excitement. Also, there is joy in waiting for people to meet a lover or family they haven't seen for a long time. This kind of waiting is a happy waiting.

By the way, Christians are used to waiting. Because faith is believing in God's promise and waiting for the promise to come true. Without exception, we have experienced such waiting, and we are still waiting for the Lord's second coming.

Body: The Bible – The story of people waiting in hope

So, there are many stories in the Bible of people who waited for the fulfillment of God's promises. Noah of Genesis in the Old Testament believes in God's promise that he will be judged by a flood and waits for 120 years to build an ark.

After being called by God at the age of 75, Abraham, the father of the faith of the Israelites, received his son Isaac as a guarantee of God's promise that he would make a great nation until he was 100 years old after 25 years. After 400 years, God's promise to make a great nation through the Exodus is fulfilled.

Also, the Israelites who exodus Egypt spent 40 years of training in the wilderness to enter Canaan, the land of promise. Furthermore, David, who was anointed as the king of Israel by the prophet Samuel, became the king of Israel only after 15 years of overcoming numerous difficulties.



In this way, we can see that many people of faith in the Bible waited a long time for the promise to be fulfilled. But the problem is that it is difficult for us to wait for something to happen. But what can we learn from waiting?

What we learn through waiting is the heart of God who loves us. **Book of 2 Peter 3:9 says: “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”**

As the words of this verse say, the Lord has postponed the judgment of the end for us. The reason why the Lord postponed the judgment through waiting like this is because He loves us and does not want to lose any of us. The Lord wants all His creatures in this world to be saved.

If it is not easy for us to wait for the fulfillment of the promise, we must be able to think about the heart of the Lord who is patient and waits longer than we do.

We must not forget that there are many benefits during the Christian waiting process. Also, in the process of waiting, we must look to the Lord we have believed in. And we must gain new strength by looking at the Lord.

Isaiah 40:31 tells us how believers wait. “But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

Therefore, it is not a boring thing for Christians to wait for the Lord, but a process in which we discover, and experience hope in the Lord.

However, despite the many benefits of waiting, most Christians are not good at waiting. Why do we find it difficult to wait?

Book of 2 Peter 3:8 says: “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”

This verse tells us not to count the number of days with our thoughts, but to think of time in God, who governs the entire universe and everything in it. In other words, it is not time that is meaningful to us, but with faith, we are to think of time from the Lord's point of view in our ongoing relationship with Him.

When we have faith and live in a constant relationship with the Lord, we can wait well prepared without wasting time waiting. (Matthew 24:43-44, 2 Peter 3:11-12)

So, if we are not good at waiting and are impatient or anxious, it means that we put our thoughts ahead of our faith in the Lord. Furthermore, it shows that we are not staying in a constant and intimate relationship with the Lord. If we experience difficulties in waiting, we need to check our relationship with God so that we may fully experience the joy and benefits of waiting.

Conclusion: God of Hope

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Today is the first week of Advent. Advent is a season of remembering the first coming of Jesus and waiting for His second coming. **Romans 15:13 says; “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”** Apostle Paul says in this verse that the essence of God is hope. The hope that the Apostle Paul speaks of in the text is the ultimate hope that only God can give through the power of the Holy Spirit. The power of God's hope made the Gentiles, who were regarded as enemies to the Jews, glorify God (Romans 15:12).

Two thousand years ago, early Christians experienced spiritual satisfaction through Jesus. It is the solution to the problem of sin and death. Through the cross and resurrection of Jesus, our sin and death have been



solved. Do you believe that your sins and death have been solved through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ? The reason our waiting for Advent can bring us joy and gratitude is because the event of the cross and resurrection was accomplished through the coming of the baby Jesus. This is the heart of the Christian faith.

I hope that the God of hope will lead us through the power of the Holy Spirit to live a life overflowing with hope. Also, may the Lord lead us all to focus on the peace of Christ and not conflict. Amen.

