

Placed on Hold

by Dr. D.A. Farmer, pastor



Scripture - Psalm 37:4 - 11

- *37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*
- *37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass.*
- *37:6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*
- *37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*
- *37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.*
- *37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.*
- *37:10 For yet a little while, and the wicked [shall] not [be]: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it [shall] not [be].*
- *37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

Last year the so-called beginning of the "new millennium" was a leap year that only takes place once every 400 years. We will not experience this same sort of "leap year" until the year 2400. So if you really enjoyed this past year 2000 "leap year" you'll have to wait another 400 years to enjoy it again.

Do you enjoy waiting? Me, I don't like having to wait if I'm in a hurry. This is when I discover just how impatient I really am. Are any of you like that too or am I the only one?

Let's take a Pop Quiz to see how you respond to having to wait. Here is your first one; what do you do when waiting in a long line at our new Post Office?

Do you,

A: Enjoy listen to the conversation of the person and postman are having about the ball game this past weekend?

B: Look on the wall and read about all the new stamps that are soon coming out?

C: Think of things you would like to tell the postman behind the counter when you get there?

D: Don't mind waiting at all. You enjoy it.

OK the next question. You've been sitting in the waiting room of your doctor's office for over an hour. How would you feel?

A: You're grateful to have the time to catch up on the June 1993 Reader's Digest?

B: Tell the other patients you have a very highly contagious and fatal disease in an attempt to clear out the waiting room.

C: Wait with a smile and thankful you have a Dr. no matter how long it takes.

Or D: Force yourself to hyperventilate to get immediate attention?

Well how did you do? Don't answer out loud. I don't want to embarrass anyone. Waiting can appear to be hard at times. But look at our scripture again in Ps. 37:5-7. Verse 5 David Livingston once said that, *"this is the verse that sustained him at every turn of his course in life while in Africa."* (See SDA Comm. V3 pg. 722)

Verse 7 starts off with the words *"Rest in the Lord"*. The actual translation is *"Be silent."* Friends if we would learn to just keep still and quite long enough we would hear the voice of God telling us to wait, be patient, and wait on Him. Many of us often become impatient waiting for God. Impatient waiting for Him to fill the empty pews. Impatient waiting for God to bring home our child that is out in the world. Impatient with some sickness we have. Impatient with waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus. And on and on our impatience goes. But do you realize if we become impatient with God we might lose the reward He has for us. (See 3T pg. 327) We have to learn to meet trouble and sorrow head-on. We must patiently wait on God in faith.

Someday for those that patiently wait on the Lord will receive the praise; *"Well done, good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."* (Matt. 25:23).

My favorite author once said; *"You must, indeed, look to Jesus, keeping your eyes fixed on the glory at the top of the ladder."* (8T. Pg. 131)

Think about Abraham for a moment. 25 years would pass since hearing the first promise of him having a son before that son came. (See SDA Comm. on Gen. 21:5). The Bible says he got tired of waiting and took matters into his own hands and Ishmael was born. You remember what happened after that doesn't you? If not read the story in Gen. Chapters 15-21.

Look at Moses; He was told he would be the one to lead the children of Israel out of 400 years of bondage. But he and the children had to wait and wonder in the wilderness for 40 more years before they would see the Promise Land.

How about The coming Messiah Himself? Do you know where the first promise of the coming Messiah is found? Turn to Gen. 3:15: *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* But it's another 4,000 years before the Messiah actual came. Luke 2:25 tell us of a man that was waiting to see the Messiah. In verse 36 – 38, we find a woman named Anna. Verse 36 says she was a prophetess. Verse 37 said she served in the temple night and day. Listen to verse 38. This verse reveals the fact that there must have been a small group of people who studied the prophecies and were aware that *"The fullness of the time was come"*. (See Galatians 4:4; Daniel 9:24–27; DA 34, 35). They were watching and waiting.

After Jesus grew up, He picked 12 disciples to work beside Him. And they kept waiting for Him to bring in the kingdom of God here on earth. But He was crucified. Then after 40 days when Jesus was about to ascend into Heaven the disciples were not all that sure of what was about to happen next. So Jesus once more commands, in Acts 1:4; *"Do not depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Holy Spirit."* So they waited in the upper room until the Holy Spirit came. But the waiting wasn't over for the human race.

Paul writes in Romans 8:23-25. Friends, God tells us to wait with *"perseverance"*. In other words, with *"determination and with willpower"*. But why wait with this sort of patience and determination? After all what are we waiting for? Look at verse 19 of Romans 8. The word used here for *"earnest expectation"* is a highly expressive Greek word that the literal meaning is *"awaiting with the head outstretched"*. In other words it suggests for us to wait with our head raised and our eyes fixed on that point of the horizon from which the expected object is to come. So you and I patently wait and we watch the horizon for the soon coming of Jesus Christ!

Psa. 27:14 says; *“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”*

Psa. 37:34; *“Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land...”*

Pro. 20:22; *“...wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.”*

Psa. 37:9; *“... Those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.”*

Over and over God’s people are commanded to; *“Wait “Patently” on the Lord.”*

In the last chapter of Revelation, 22:20 John closes by saying, *“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”*

It may not seem like it now, but in light of eternity, the Bible says, *“Jesus is coming soon.”*

Back in Romans 8:23, Paul declares the Christian who has received the gift of the Spirit is an adopted son or daughter of God. (See Ro. 8:15,16; Gal. 4:6 SDA Com). But the final and complete understanding of this adoption takes place in what Romans 8:19 calls *“the revealing or manifestation of the sons of God.”* In other words at the 2nd coming of Christ. Verse 23 speaks of the *“Redemption of our body.”* Again this *“redemption”* takes place when our bodies are redeemed. God promises at the Second Coming of Christ our bodies will be delivered from our present condition of weakness, sinfulness, decay, and death.

Read 1 Cor. 15:49–53; Phil. 3:21; and 1 Thess. 4:16, 17. Did you notice in verse 24; *“For we were saved?”* It is important to notice that sometimes Paul says literally, *“you have been saved”* see Eph. 2:5, 8. Sometimes he said literally, *“you are being saved”* see 1 Cor. 15:2. And sometimes he said, *“thou shalt be saved”* see Rom. 10:9 and 13:1.

Friend’s salvation is an experience or condition that begins when one accepts Jesus. But it must be maintained daily. We must live a life of continual growth and transformation in Jesus. For the Christian who may think or suppose that his or her salvation is a certainty, that he or she can live the way they want need to remember the testimony of the apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 15:31; *“I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”* Paul knew the constant danger of being deceived. He was determined that nothing would get in his way and cost him the crown of everlasting life.

Waiting on the Lord is like Paul said; a daily decision to say, "God, I will trust you. I will obey you even though the circumstances of my life are not turning out the way I want them to, and they may never turn out the way I want them to. I may not understand everything but Lord I will fully trust in You."

Friends that’s waiting on the Lord. There is no Plan B! Waiting on the Lord requires trust. Listen to II Peter 3:8,9.

- 3:8 *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day [is] with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*
- 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

I guess you know that God has a different perspective on time than what we do. Let me give you an example. There once was this economist that read 2 Peter 3:8,9. He was quite amazed by it so he prayed to God. His prayer went something like this: "Lord, is it true that a thousand years

¹Nichol, Francis D., *The Seventhday Adventist Bible Commentary*, (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association) 1978.

for us is just like one day or one minute to you." The Lord said, "Yes." The economist said, "Well then, if that is true, then a million dollars to us must be like one penny to you." Again The Lord said, "Well, yes." The economist said, "Well, Lord, will you give me one of those pennies?" The Lord said, "All right, I will. Wait here a minute."

That is the way we sometimes are! We want God's resources but we don't want His timing. We want His penny but not His minute. We want his help but we not His calendar.

Friends', waiting on the Lord means I will trust that He knows what he's doing in my life. Waiting on the Lord is a confident, disciplined, active, and sometimes painful trust that God will be with us no mater what happens in our life.

The Bible says in Isaiah 40:30-31; *"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."*

Trust Him and wait patiently for He truly is coming soon.