

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT FOR THE KING

ADVENT: THE KING IS COMING!

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT FOR THE KING

Genesis 49:18; Psalm 27:14; 39:7; 130:5; Isaiah 33:2; Lamentations 3:25-26; Micah 7:7; 1 Corinthians 1:7; Revelation 19:16

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 2:25-26

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”

BIG IDEAS

- We wait patiently for our King.
- We wait expectantly for our King.
- We wait faithfully for our King.

BIBLE PASSAGE: LUKE 2:22-35

God’s people wait for the King to come. Simeon was a righteous and devout man who waited faithfully and expectantly for the promised Messiah. He remained faithful to God and obeyed His commands because he believed God would send the Messiah. He got to see the Messiah because he waited patiently and faithfully.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means “arrival” or “coming”. During Advent season God’s people remember and rejoice in Jesus’ first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for his return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King!

BIG AIMS



Every student should know that:

- Jesus is the one and only King.
- Jesus came and is coming again.
- We exist for Jesus.



Every student should feel:

- The longing within their soul for the King.
- A dissatisfaction within their soul for things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every student should strive to:

- Spend time each week with their family talking about the King.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who came and is coming again.



Every student should want to:

- Trust the King in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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Simeon was a righteous and devout man.

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout...”

- In Luke 2, Simeon is briefly mentioned, but his life is an example to us all. Simeon is described as a righteous and devout man. He was a Godly man who sought to live rightly before God. He was a devout man, devoting his life to serving God.
- Simeon’s daily life revealed that he was a man of God because he lived each day faithfully for God. He sought to obey God’s commands and to live righteously for Him.

Jesus is the consolation of Israel.

“Waiting for the consolation of Israel...”

- Simeon waited expectantly for the consolation of Israel. Jesus is the consolation of Israel and the world because He brought salvation to mankind.
- A consolation is something that is a comfort to others. Jesus was the consolation that Simeon was waiting for. Jesus brings comfort to all those who believe in Him for salvation because He lived the perfect life and died the death we all deserved to die.

Simeon trusted God’s promises and waited expectantly for the King.

“And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”

- Simeon lived a life of expectation and trust. He believed God’s promises. He believed God would save the world through the coming King. He believed God would allow him, Simeon, to see the consolation of Israel before he died. He waited expectantly, knowing that God would do what He had promised.
- Simeon waited for the King. He saw the King when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple. Simeon’s trust and faith were made sight as he saw firsthand God’s promise fulfilled.

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT FOR THE KING

BIG IDEA #1: WE WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE KING.¹

[THIS]

God promised a Redeemer to the world. When sin entered the world, man was hopeless. The Redeemer God promised was also the true King. God's people waited for their King to come. Luke tells us the story of Simeon, one of God's people who waited patiently for the coming Messiah. Simeon heard the prophecies and knew the story of God's promise of a Savior. He was familiar with the promise of a King who would rescue His people from the world. Simeon waited patiently for this promised King. He waited, believing the promise to be true, expecting God to do what He said He was going to do. He did not stop believing or become distracted out of impatience. He waited, trusting in God's timing and purposes.

[THEREFORE]

How does Simeon's example help you have greater faith in God?

Simeon lived out Proverbs 3:5-6 during his life. He waited for God and he lived a right life. We can trust God's timing because God is perfect and true. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that those who do wait on God will be renewed. Psalm 27:14 also teaches us to trust in God and to wait on Him. His plan and timing are always best because He is God.

What is something in your life that you need to trust God with?

We can trust God with everything in our lives, but somethings are harder to trust Him with than others. Sometimes, we want to feel in control of our future, but God should be and can be trusted with our future as seen in Proverbs 16:1-4. Philippians 1:6 reminds us that God has a plan for His people and His plan will prevail. We can trust God in all times and all things. He is always faithful.

[THIS]

Today, God's people wait for the return of the King. Simeon waited for the Messiah to come and he saw the Messiah. His faith in God's promise received sight when Joseph and Mary brought the child into the temple. We wait now for the return of the King and we can do so patiently because God does what He says He's going to do. We can trust God's timing because God is sovereign and omniscient. He controls all things and knows all things. His timeline is always best because He is the one true God. It is His redemption plan that saves us and, therefore, His timing is better than anything we could ever plan or imagine.

[THEREFORE]

What distracts you from waiting patiently for King Jesus?

Colossians 3:1-2 tells us to set our minds on the things that are above. Often in this life, we can become distracted by the things of this earth. We may grow impatient while waiting for Christ's return and focus more on this life than on the one to come. Philippians 3:20 and Jude 1:21 remind us to keep our focus on the coming of King Jesus. As we remember Jesus' birth, it serves as a reminder and encouragement to wait patiently for His return.

How can you practice waiting patiently for the King this week?

Waiting for anything can be difficult. Waiting for King Jesus can be even more difficult, but when we focus on seeking His kingdom first, our hearts will long for His return and rest in the promise of His return. Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek the Kingdom of God first and Psalm 63:1 reminds us of the heart attitude we should have as we wait patiently for the King.

1. Luke 2:22-25: Simeon waited patiently for the coming of the Messiah and God's people wait for His return with patience.

BIG IDEA #2: WE WAIT EXPECTANTLY FOR OUR KING.²**[THIS]**

Luke 2:22-25 shows us Simeon was a follower of God who waited for the promised Messiah expectantly. Simeon really believed the Messiah would come because he had great faith in God. Our faith impacts the way we wait for our King. If we truly believe, we wait expecting the King to come. Simeon had this kind of faith. He went to the temple expecting to see the Messiah and he did. He is an example of how we should wait for the return of our King. Simeon's life revealed a trust and belief in God the Father. Simeon believed God's Word and lived his life to bring God glory and honor. Simeon knew the prophecies of the coming Messiah and trusted them completely. If he had not trusted God, he would not have waited so patiently and expectantly for the promised Messiah.

[THEREFORE]**What is expectation and what is the connection between it and faith?**

To expect something or someone is to be certain the thing or person is going to happen or come as promised. Expectation and faith are connected because they aren't possible without one another. Expectant faith is not just believing God has the ability to do what He says, but that He is going to do what He says.

How did Simeon's faith in God create expectation in his heart?

Having faith in God leads us to trust His Word and His promises. In Psalm 37:4-6 we learn that delighting in God and trusting in Him helps us wait for Him and we know we'll see Him do what He promises to do. Psalm 9:10 reminds us that when we trust in God, we are not forsaken. This is the type of faith Simeon had and the type of faith we need in order to wait expectantly for the King's return.

[THIS]

Today, God's people look back and remember the birth of Jesus as a sign of God's faithfulness. God fulfilled His promise to send a Savior when He sent Jesus to the earth. God's people believe that Jesus came to the earth to live the life we could not and die the death we deserved that we might live. We look to the future because Jesus promised when He ascended into heaven after His resurrection that He would come again one day. We live expectantly waiting for His return. We do this by striving to live obedient lives and to live as if He could return at any moment. We seek to know Him and to tell others about Him because we really believe He is coming again and we are expectant that He will return one day.

[THEREFORE]**What fears often keeps us from believing God will do what He says He will do?**

Fear of the future, our circumstances, and sorrow can lead us to not believe God. We may see tragedy and think that God is not who He says He is. In Psalm 46:1 and 55:22, we see that no matter our circumstances God can be trusted. Often we may fear provision and protection, but God is always faithful and takes care of His people.

What behaviors and/or attitudes can you put on this week to practice waiting expectantly for the King this week?

In Psalm 1:2, the psalmist delights in God's Word daily. He meditates on it and saturates his life with it. As we seek to wait expectantly for the King, we can saturate our own lives with His Word and this will help us live expecting the King to come. 2 Timothy 2:15 teaches us to live in a way that we would receive approval from the King. When we live in obedience to Him, we are living as if He is coming back any day. This is how we live expectant of His return.

2. Luke 2:27: Simeon waited expectantly for the King. He went to the temple expecting to see the Messiah and He did.

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT FOR THE KING

BIG IDEA #3: WE WAIT FAITHFULLY FOR OUR KING.³

[THIS]

Luke 2:22-25 tells us that Simeon was a righteous and devout man. This means he was faithful to God. To be devout means to live devoted to your beliefs. Simeon was devoted to God and this led him to live faithfully for God in anticipation of the coming Messiah. His faith in God and God's promise of a Redeemer impacted his entire life. We know that Simeon lived obediently to God because he is described as a righteous man. To be righteous means to live rightly, or according to God's commands. Simeon waited for the coming Messiah and he did so by living faithfully according to God's Word. He revealed that he truly believed God's Word and expected God to do what He said He was going to do. When the Messiah did come, Simeon was found faithfully waiting for Him.

[THEREFORE]

Read Luke 2:22-25. How did Simeon's own faithfulness enable him to experience God's faithfulness?

In 2 Timothy 2:13, we see that God is faithful no matter how we behave, but what we do know from His Word is that when we are faithful, we get to experience the blessings of God. Proverbs 28:20a reminds us of the result of our faithfulness and Matthew 25:24 shows us that those who remain faithful get to experience the fullness of God and the blessing of His pleasure in us. Simeon experienced this blessing by remaining faithful to God.

[THIS]

Today, God's people should and can wait faithfully for the King's return. We can wait faithfully by seeking God's kingdom first. We do this by setting our minds on the things that are above. We discipline ourselves to live our lives for God's eternal kingdom and not for this temporal world. When we take our thoughts captive and think about eternal things, like God's coming kingdom, His eternal glory, and our eternity in Heaven with Him, we are setting our minds on the things that are above. As we seek to glorify Him with our lives, we will wait faithfully for His return. When we adopt an eternal perspective, everything in our lives here on earth is influenced by our future eternal home. We will tell others about the coming King because we will be expecting His return and will desire others to know Him as we know Him. Our investment will be in eternal things and not in this fading world.

[THEREFORE]

What is the connection between abiding in Christ, and growing in one's faith?

In John 15:5 we are taught to abide in Christ and by abiding in Him, we will grow in Him. Our faith will grow as we abide in Him. When we do this, we will wait faithfully for His return. In Romans 4, we see Abraham presented as a picture of abiding faith. Abraham didn't just have faith, he abided in God and took God at His Word.

How can you practice being faithful to God through obedience this week?

2 John 1:6 reminds us that when we love God, we will keep His commands. We know His commands by knowing His Word. As we grow in our knowledge and understanding of His Word, we can walk in obedience to it. As we pray and seek His face, we will understand better how to live obedient lives. His Spirit will guide us to obey Him in our daily lives and by doing this, we will be found faithful when the King comes.

3. Luke 2: 22-25: Simeon was a righteous and devout person. This means he waited faithfully for the coming King.