



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – September 23, 2023

The Lord be with you.

I was waiting at a crosswalk the other day, and I pushed the button for the crosswalk to let me go, and there was this rude mechanical voice commanding... Wait, wait, wait. Well, I don't know about you, but I don't like to wait whether it's waiting in traffic, waiting in the supermarket line, are waiting because my computer doesn't seem to be working fast enough. The digital age is teaching me that waiting is bad for me, but the waiting is keeping me from getting what I want, that waiting is holding me back from the good life. And I along with a lot of other people, I don't want to wait. I want it now, but then I see in the Bible, I see God's people waiting. Well there are Abraham and Sarah waiting for Isaac, there was Joseph waiting in an Egyptian prison, there was David waiting to be crowned king, there was Israel waiting for Messiah, and then there's all the many scriptures commanding us to wait.

Today, I want to consider a psalm about waiting it Psalm 27, verse 14, that says, "Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord." Now, this verse comes surprisingly, at the end of David's cry for help. For instance, in verse 12, he has just pray, do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, but then David unexpectedly concludes a Psalm with the exhortation to wait... To wait for the Lord. This is a lesson that David has learned from years of experience, that God is worth waiting for, and to trust in Him, to rely on him to come to him in time of trouble. So then David is first talking to himself and that he's talking to readers, encouraging us to wait for the Lord as strength and curries are developed in us as we wait. Now, the word wait is big at the vocabulary of faith, such that there are several different Hebrew words translated by the English word wait. The Hebrew word that David uses here is a word kuvah, and it's the word used by Isaiah in Isaiah chapter 40 verse 31, those who wait, kuvah, those who wait for the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. So as they wait for the Lord, they find themselves renewed and strengthened.

The Hebrew word kuvah, it has the idea of anticipation of eagerly looking for something. Kuvah is like a child and Christmas Eve, eagerly waiting to open presents. It's not a passive waiting, it's an eager waiting, such that the word kuvah is often linked with the word hope, this is hopeful waiting that David is talking about, as David knows by experience that God is worthy of trust, that God is faithful to his promise. God is worth waiting for. And so David concludes his psalm, that's written in the midst of trouble, in the midst of the adversity, David comes to the logical



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conclusion, wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord. I like what Ben Patterson says in his book, *Waiting: Finding Hope When God Seems Silent*. Patterson writes, "what we become as we wait is at least as important as the thing we wait for, and then he continues to wait and hope, it's not just to pass the time until the wait is over, it is to see the time passing as part of the process, I like that. Part of the process, God is using to make us into the people he created us to be." End of quote.

So God just don't always tell us why he wants us to wait, but one day he will show us. It might be a week later, a month later, or even years later, but God will show us why He wants us to wait.

You might be waiting today. It's a good time for us to say to God, Lord, Lord, we trust you. And we know that you know what you're doing. We believe you were working all things together for our good.

You see, God is working in you and me as we wait he is working to strengthen us, to develop character, to make us more like Jesus, and to teach us that we can glorify God just as much by waiting for him, as we can by serving him. And so what David we can say, wait for the Lord. Be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord. God is worth waiting for.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening, until next time.