

Waiting on the Lord in a Pagan World

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Trials

Testing

Suffering

Persecution

Waiting

Why study it?

How?

What I bring and what you bring

Waiting on the Lord

Matthew 10

16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

24 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

...in a Pagan World

OT Israel under the Assyrians

OT Judah under the Babylonians

OT Jews under the Persians

Inter-Testamental Israel under the Greeks

New Testament Israel under the Romans

The Christianization of Pagan Rome

The Paganization of Christian Rome

Applications in our Paganized World

Learning from similarities and
differences with ancient cultures

*How does studying our history as God's Covenant
people help us persevere and grow during times of
waiting, trials, suffering, or persecution?*

People Waiting on the Lord

Jeremiah

Daniel

Judas Maccabeus

Onias

Peter

Rufus

Linus

Ignatius

Polycarp

Valentinus

Patrick

In a World of Pagan People

Asshurbanipal

Nebuchadnezzar

Cyrus the Great

Xerxes

Alexander the Great

Antiochus Epiphanes

Herod the Great

Cesar Augustus

Nero

Trajan

Diocletian

What is Covenant?

What does Covenant have to do with it?

A relationship

A law-bound relationship

Are law and love at odds?

Covenantal relationship vs. solely personal relationship
e.g. Family relationship (parent, child, sibling)

Eternal Covenant

2nd Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

Ephesians 1:4 For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Eternal Covenant

Titus 1:1-2 “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness-- a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, *promised before the beginning of time.*”

II Timothy 1:9 ...according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us *in Christ from all eternity*

I Peter 1:20 He [Christ] was *foreordained before the foundation of the world*, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God...”

Intra-Trinitarian Love Gift

- Ultimately, the gift of salvation is not a gift to you
- The gift of salvation is a gift OF you
- You are the Father's eternal love gift to the Son
- God uses His elect to express Himself to Himself within the Trinity relationship

Intra-Trinitarian Love Gift

- My personal, individual faith decision is not the center of the universe
- Did Christ make salvation possible for all, but certain for none?!?
- Maureen's Engagement Ring
- God the Father's eternal love gift to the God the Son is not dependent on your personal, faith decision to be certain and effective

Why Me?

Why do you have faith in God and so many other people don't?

- A) Because the gospel is logical
and you're more logical than they are
- B) Because the gospel is love
and you're more loving than they are
- C) Because you have more courage to believe the
truth than they do
- D) Because from all eternity, God the Father chose
you by grace to be His love gift to His Son and gave
you the gift of faith by enabling you to believe the
gospel by the power of His Holy Spirit

Why Me?

Christ said “You did not choose me, but I chose you.”
(John 15:16)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Christ Prays For His Gift

John 17: 1 "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to **all those you have given him**... 6 "I have revealed you to those **whom you gave me** out of the world. They were yours; **you gave them to me** and they have obeyed your word... 9 I pray for them. **I am not praying for the world**, but for those **you have given me, for they are yours**. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled... 20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you... 24 "Father, I want those **you have given me** to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me **before the creation of the world**.

Why Is Covenant Important?

John 6:39 This is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

John 10:28-29 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; *no one can snatch them out of my hand*. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; *no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand*.

Why Is Covenant Important?

How can you be sure of your salvation & deliverance through trials and suffering?

Are you important to God?

The purpose of your salvation only has meaning in the context of His Covenant

What can a child know of their place in life without a real idea of “family”?

A child cannot know himself without knowing of the parent’s marriage Covenant

Application

How is the eternal Covenant relevant to life?

...to peace in eternal security?

...to comfort in suffering and crisis?

...to confidence in living out your faith?

“The eternity of God is the foundation of the stability of the Covenant” (Charnock, 279)