

What Are We Waiting For?

Ի՞նչ Բանի Կը սպասենք

John 1:10-14, Luke 1:46-55

It is the Christmas week. The question I am raising:

“What are we waiting for?”

Everyone is waiting for something to happen.

Some are waiting for the pandemic to be gone.

Armenians are waiting for some kind of a fair solutions for the unjust war that we faced.

Some are waiting for vacation.

Some are waiting for vaccine

Some are not waiting for vaccine

Some are waiting for a salary raise.

Some are planning their postponed wedding or memorial.

Some of us can't wait till this year ends. We are looking forward to a new year.

We want 2021 to come, yet is there anything new under the sun?

How about waiting for the fulfillment of the prophecies?

The Word of God is full of promises about the coming Savior.

How about we are waiting for the fulfillment of the prophecies?

-**Isaiah** writes about the One who will come: “**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given**” (Isaiah 9:6).

God will give us a sign, says Isaiah. “**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son**” (Isaiah 7:14).

These prophecies were fulfilled **more than 700** years later. The Gospel of Matthew gives that account (Matthew 1:21-23).

-**Micah** prophesies about the location of the birth. He writes: “**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, one of you will come for me, one who will be ruler over Israel**” (Micah 5:2).

Luke tells us that this prophecy was fulfilled (Luke 2:4,15). The newborn king was not born in the glorious city of Jerusalem but in the small, insignificant town of Bethlehem.

- **Hosea** gives us another prophecy: **“Out of Egypt I called my son”** (Hosea 11:1). Matthew confirms these words saying, **“And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘Out of Egypt I called my son’”** (Matthew 2:15). This is the incident where Joseph was warned by God to take his family to Egypt to rescue Jesus.

-**Malachi** talks about the road opener. **“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me”** (Malachi 3:1). **400 years later** In Mark 1:2, we meet John the Baptist, the road opener.

-**Zachariah 9:9** says: **“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion... See your king comes to you... gentle and riding on a donkey.”** **About 500 years later** The story of the king riding on a donkey is found in all four gospels. A humble king enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey and not a horse.

- **Isaiah 53** presents to us the **Suffering Servant**. We are not only waiting for a King, but a Suffering Servant as well. He is a King who is ready to bear all kinds of suffering.

-In John 19:24,28,36,37 the apostle talks about the casting of the lots for the clothes of Jesus, his thirst on the cross, his bones not being broken, and his pierced side. All of these are there in the Old Testament (Psalm 22:18, 22:15, 34:20, and Zachariah 12:10).

-His death, resurrection and ascension are all in the Old Testament (Isaiah 53:7, Psalm 18, Psalm 68:18).

Fulfillment of the prophecies... this is what I am waiting for.

- **Isaiah** also describes the people who saw a great light: **“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light”** (Isaiah 9:2)

Lately we are studying the Gospel of John which opens with a beautiful passage about the Word becoming flesh and Christ as the light.

“The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world” (John 1:9).

There are so many promises in the Word of God that have been fulfilled in Jesus. God becoming flesh, the incarnation, the birth of Jesus, his life, his death and resurrection.

Why all these verses?

I am pointing all these **not for a proof**. God does not need our proof. God can express Himself the way He wants.

Yet, I am sharing with you all these verses so that we see that **we are not alone in waiting**.

“The Old Testament” was waiting. The prophets were waiting. The wise men were waiting.

The shepherds heard about it and started to look and wait in ANTICIPATION. Who is this NEWBORN?

Abraham waited for a promised son.

Joseph waited for a meaning in his terrible condition.

Moses waited for the Promised Land.

Jews waited for the Messiah. And they are still waiting.

What are you waiting for?

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was pregnant and waiting.

Let us take a moment to look at Mary’s song and understand what she was waiting for.

Her song is recorded in the Gospel of Luke. It is called the *Magnificat*. There are numerous musical works, including Armenian sharagans, based on these words.

Mary was confused and frightened. She did not understand many things, yet she obeyed God. And now she is waiting with praise and joy.

“My Soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior...” (Luke 1:46)

She is praising before Jesus was born. She is praising without having the gift. She is full of praise about what will be in future, rather what is with her now.

Remember she was very young and probably poor. In her condition, she learned to praise God, not because she was poor, but with anticipation of what would come:

“..He has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things...” (Luke 1:52,53).

She is waiting the promised Messiah with praise and adoration, the One who is coming to lift us up from our OLD LIFE.

I am waiting for the fulfillment of the promises of God.
Some of His promises are already fulfilled and some are being fulfilled.
While we are waiting for the birth of Jesus, we are waiting for the second advent
in his Second Coming as well.

Oh how much I am waiting for that....

Meanwhile

We too are in a place of waiting while we live in this world which needs
redemption. We still live in a broken and fallen world and we too are waiting for
the redemption of all things.

All creation cries out....

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ **that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.**

²² We know that **the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.** ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. (Romans 8:19-24 NIV11)

This is my last sermon of the year 2020.

I like to look back to Gospel of John and see how Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises.

The first chapter: the prologue.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (1-5)

Please read the rest of the chapter again and again.

It is amazing. It is amazing to experience who Jesus is?

Who is this baby that will be born about whom so many prophecies were written?

Even if you look at the first chapter in the Gospel of John, you come across many of his titles. They are the fulfillment of the promises.

Come and see.... As we read in John 1...Come and see

NIV Commentary says:

“One of the striking features of this story is that people who become disciples of Jesus know what to call him. Within the story there is a series of titles that could almost serve as an index to the New Testament list of names for Jesus:

- Messiah (vv. 20, 41)
- the Prophet (v. 21)
- Jesus (v. 29)
- Lamb of God (v. 29, 36)
- one who baptizes with the Spirit (v. 33)
- chosen [Son] of God (v. 34)
- rabbi/teacher (vv. 38, 49)
- Christ/anointed one (v. 41)
- son of Joseph (v. 45)
- Nazarene (v. 45)
- Son of God (v. 49)
- King of Israel (v. 49)
- Son of Man (v. 51)

In the Gospel of John there are many promises being fulfilled in Jesus.

For example, let me mention the seven I AMs

1. I Am the Bread of Life (6)
2. I Am the Light of the World (8)
3. I Am the Door of the Sheep (10)
4. I Am the Good Shepherd (10)
5. I Am the Resurrection & Life (11)
6. I Am the Way, Truth & Life (11)
7. I Am the True Vine (15)

I personally encountered those seven I AMs.

Jesus does provide the bread of life for me

Jesus did bring light into my dark heart and vision

Jesus in my door, my gate, my protector
Jesus is the Good Shepherd who sacrificed his life to save me
Jesus died and rose thus he brings resurrection in my life. I will experience the
resurrection one day because He is the resurrection and life, everlasting life
Jesus is the only way that I can find the truth, life and salvation
Jesus made me a branch on his vine, because he is the vine, and I will abide in him
in an intimate relationship.

What are you waiting for?