

**Focus:** The Lord fulfills his promise of a righteous savior and king at just the right time. He will fulfill the promise to return when the time is right. While we wait we know his timing is always perfect.

**Background:** Break from series in Judges. We must remember why this season of celebration is such good news.

**Introduction:** It's hard to wait for things we really desire/need/love. Sometimes we need to be reminded that God never fails to keep a promise.

## I. God's Gracious Promise

### A. The occasion of the promise

1. Sin in the Garden
2. A rebellious people
3. Desire to deliver (Genesis 3:15)
4. Love (Exodus 15:13; 20:6; Psalm 85:7)

### B. The proclamation of the promise

1. To and through Abraham (Genesis 17:7-8)
  - To be their God
  - To give them a land
2. To and through Moses (Exodus 6:6)
  - To deliver them from bondage
  - To show them the Law (revealing their sin)
  - Providing a picture and means of redemption
  - To expect a prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:18)

NOTE: They learned to look to the LORD for redemption – Psalm 26:11; 25:22

3. To and through David (2 Samuel 7:11-14,16)
  - An heir on the throne forever

### C. The people of the promise

1. An “unremarkable” people (Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 10:15)
  - Small, weak
2. Yet, a “remarkable” people
  - a. Set apart (Deuteronomy 30:6; 2 Samuel 7:23)
  - b. Made righteous by faith (Galatians 3:11; 5:5)
3. *Spiritual* descendants of Abraham
  - Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:7; 3:29; Ephesians 3:6

### D. The person of the promise

1. A prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:18)
  - Who is the word of God (John 1:14)
  - Whose word is life (John 5:24)
2. A son of David (2 Samuel 7)
  - Of his line and lineage – king on his throne forever
  - Who would “reign forever” (Psalm 2:7-8; 45:6)
  - Who is Lord (Matthew 22:41-45; Romans 1:4)

3. One King like no other (Isaiah 9:1-7)
  - 1 The Lord's work
    - Not a deliverance they can effect – but one the God alone brings!
  - 2 Blessing on his people
    - Darkness all around –Light dawns!
  - 3 Rejoice “before you”
    - They enjoy his presence again!
  - 4 As god acted in bringing them out of Egypt
    - Suffering is done, over with, finished!
  - 5 Battle is won, victory
    - Even though they did not go out to battle!
  - 6-7 How can this be??
    - a. The King is born!!
    - b. What is His name?
      - 1). *Wonderful Counselor* – or, “wonder of a counselor”
      - 2) *Mighty God* – that is, it is the Lord Himself! (see 10:21)
      - 3) *Everlasting Father*
      - 4) *Prince of Peace* – Ruling over his kingdom as the instrument of unending peace.

And they waited.

## II. His Perfect Timing – When the Time Was Right

- A. The Christ entered the world
  1. At just the right time (Galatians 4:4)
  2. To fulfill his calling
    - Not just deliverance from their enemies and worldly oppressors
    - Crush the power of sin and death (Romans 5:6)
  3. Leaving us with his promise to return (John 14:28; Acts 1:11)
- B. Christ is coming back (John 14:2; 1 Thessalonians 3:13)

## III. How Long?? The Cry that is both ancient and modern!

- A. Israel's cry (Psalm 6:1-4; 13:1; Habakkuk 1:2)
- B. The Church's cry
  1. Lord, come quickly (Revelation 22:20)
  2. Lord, please wait (2 Peter 3:9)
- C. The believer's hope – and cry
  1. Laying hold of his promises 1Peter 1:1-13
  2. How long, O Lord??
    - How long must we struggle and suffer with the trials of this life?
    - When will we see your face?
  3. “Come, Lord Jesus!”
    - We seek Jesus more than the pleasures and comforts of this life.