



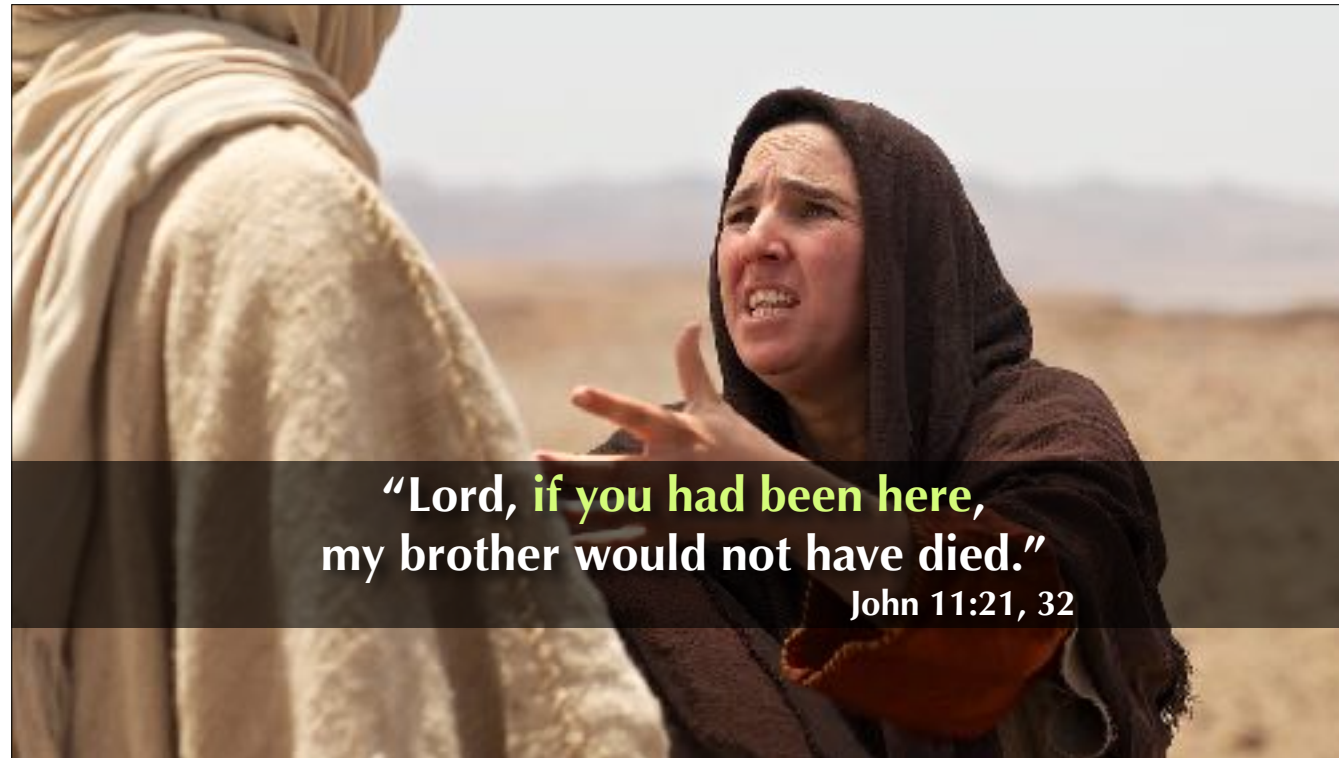
How Long?

A Plan, Promises, & Patience

Psalm 13

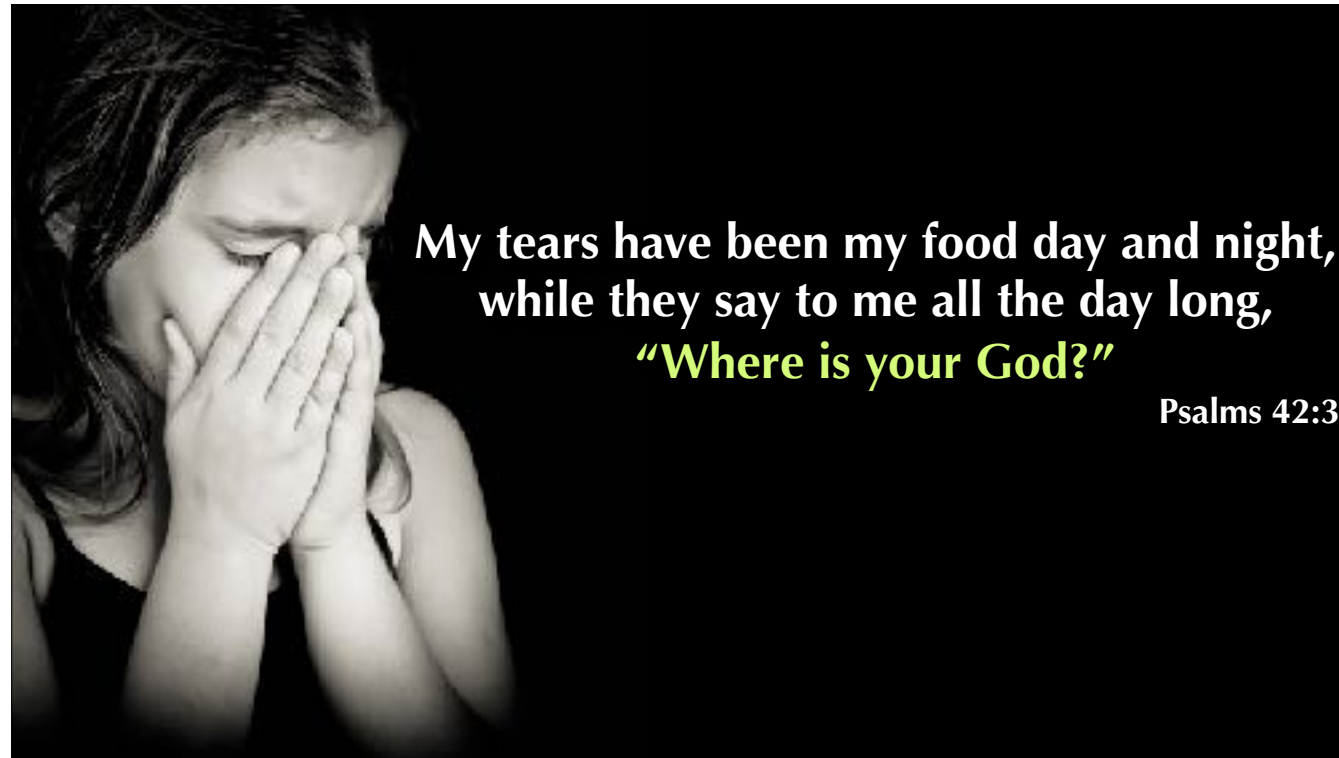
**So the sisters sent to him, saying,
“Lord, he whom you love is ill.”
John 11:3**

- John 11:3 (ESV) So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”
- John 11:21 (ESV) 21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
- John 11:32 (ESV) 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”



**“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.”**
John 11:21, 32

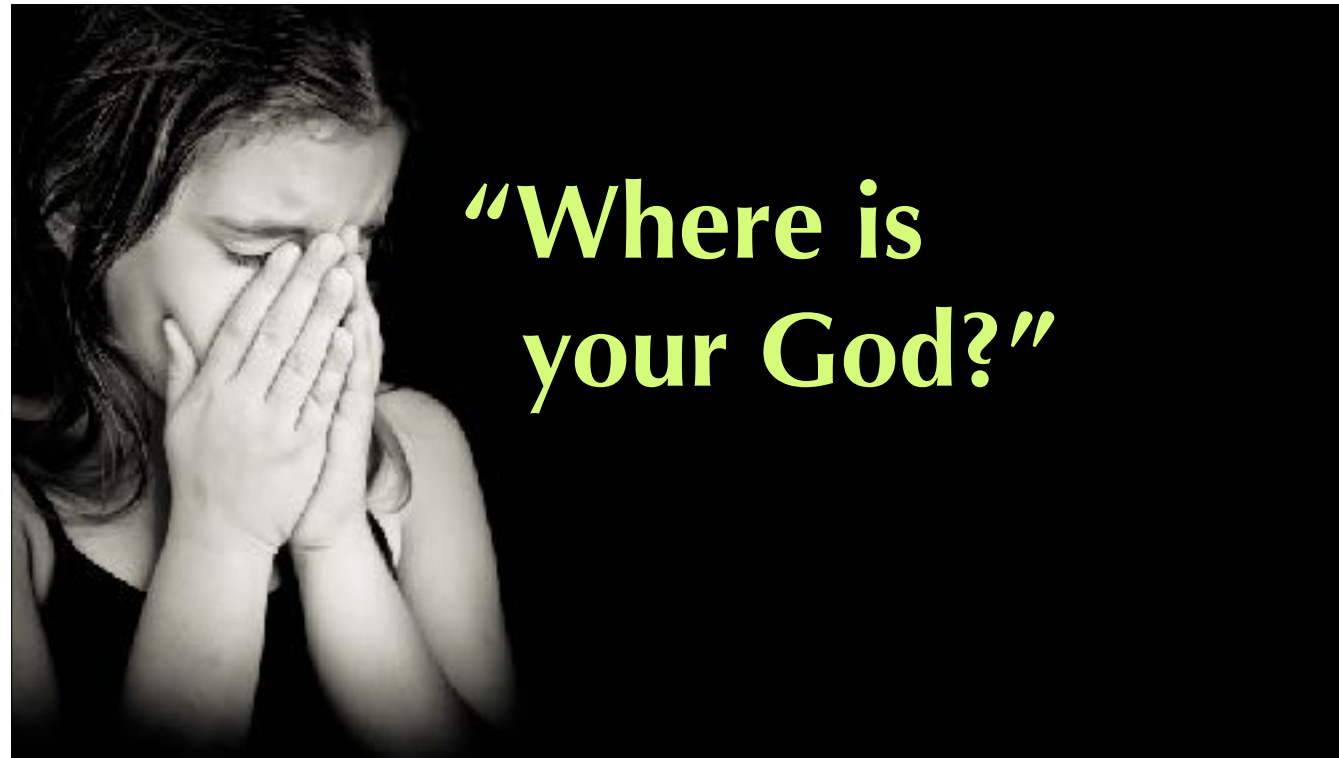
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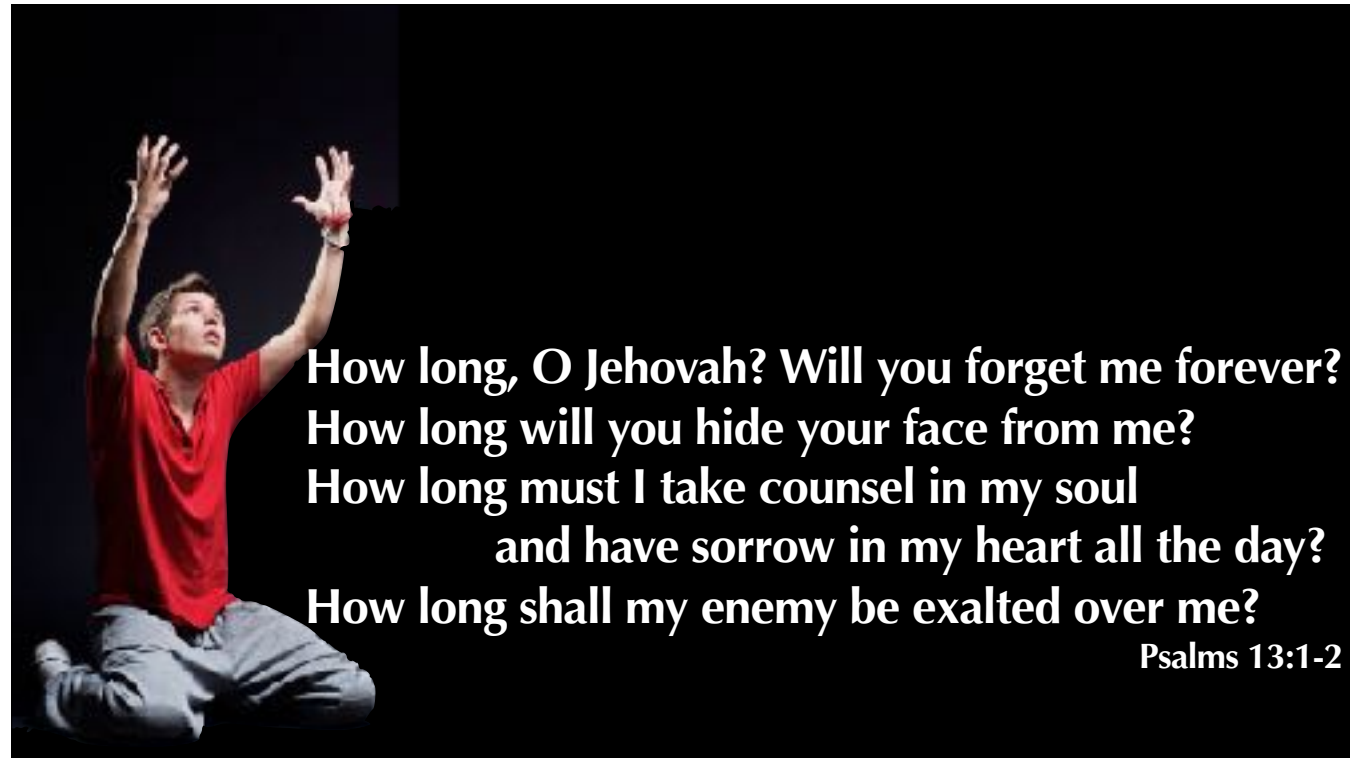
My tears have been my food day and night,
while they say to me all the day long,
"Where is your God?"

Psalms 42:3

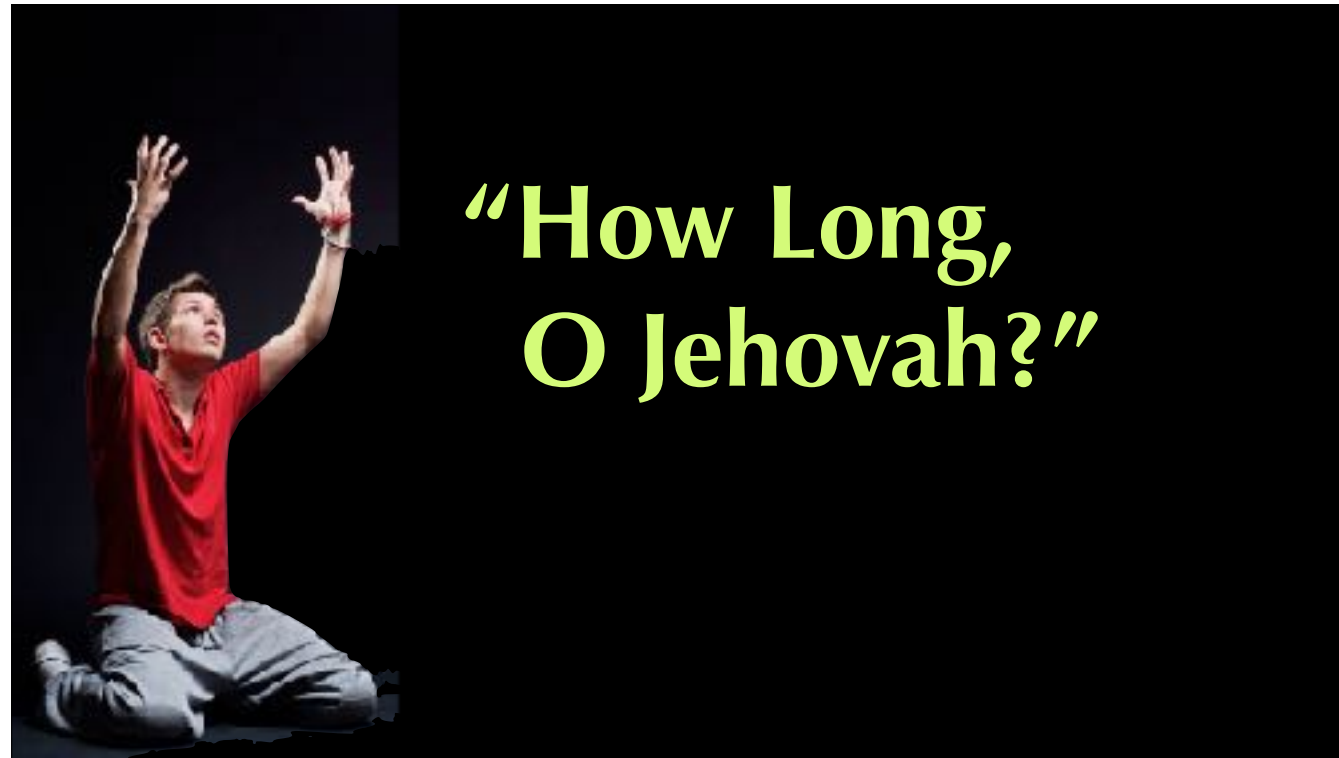
- Psalms 42:3 (ESV) 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"



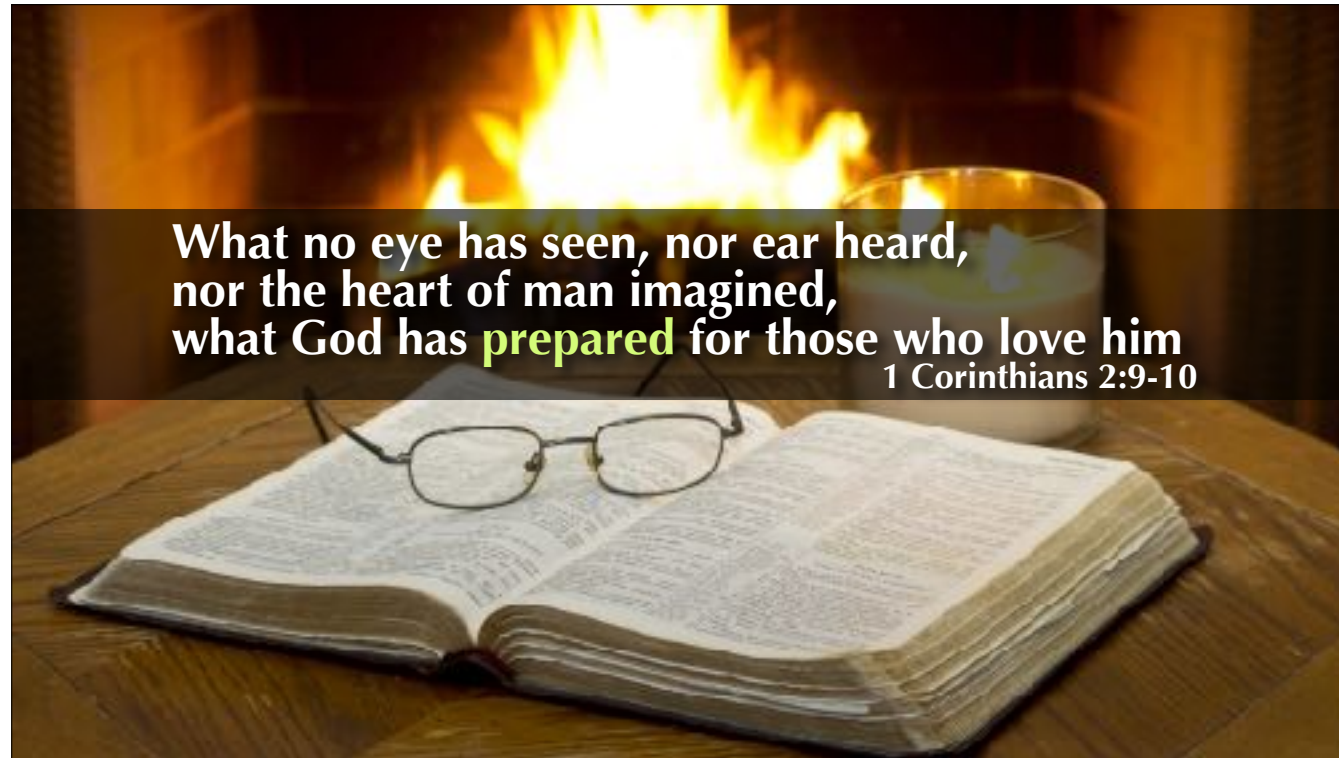
- Where is God?
 - Why allow evil?
 - Why allow suffering?
 - Why innocents suffer?
 - Why am I having to go through this?
 - Why isn't God doing something?
- WHERE IS GOD?



- Psalms 13:1-2 (ESV) 1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

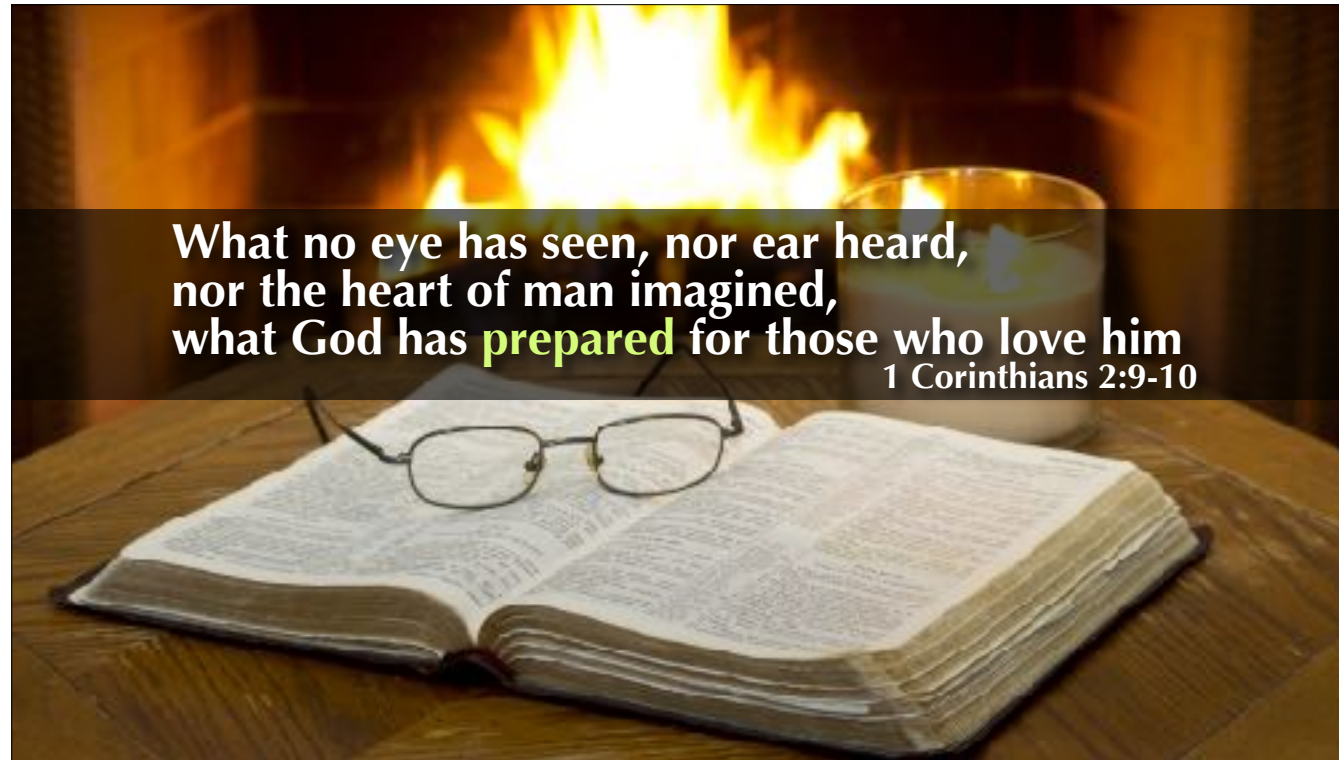


- Even in the midst of trusting God... sometimes we wonder when He will save us, help us, deliver us from our problems
- We might feel forgotten, abandoned, humiliated
- We are weak, tired, sorrowful
- I can't hold out much longer
 - End of the rope
 - No light at the end of the tunnel



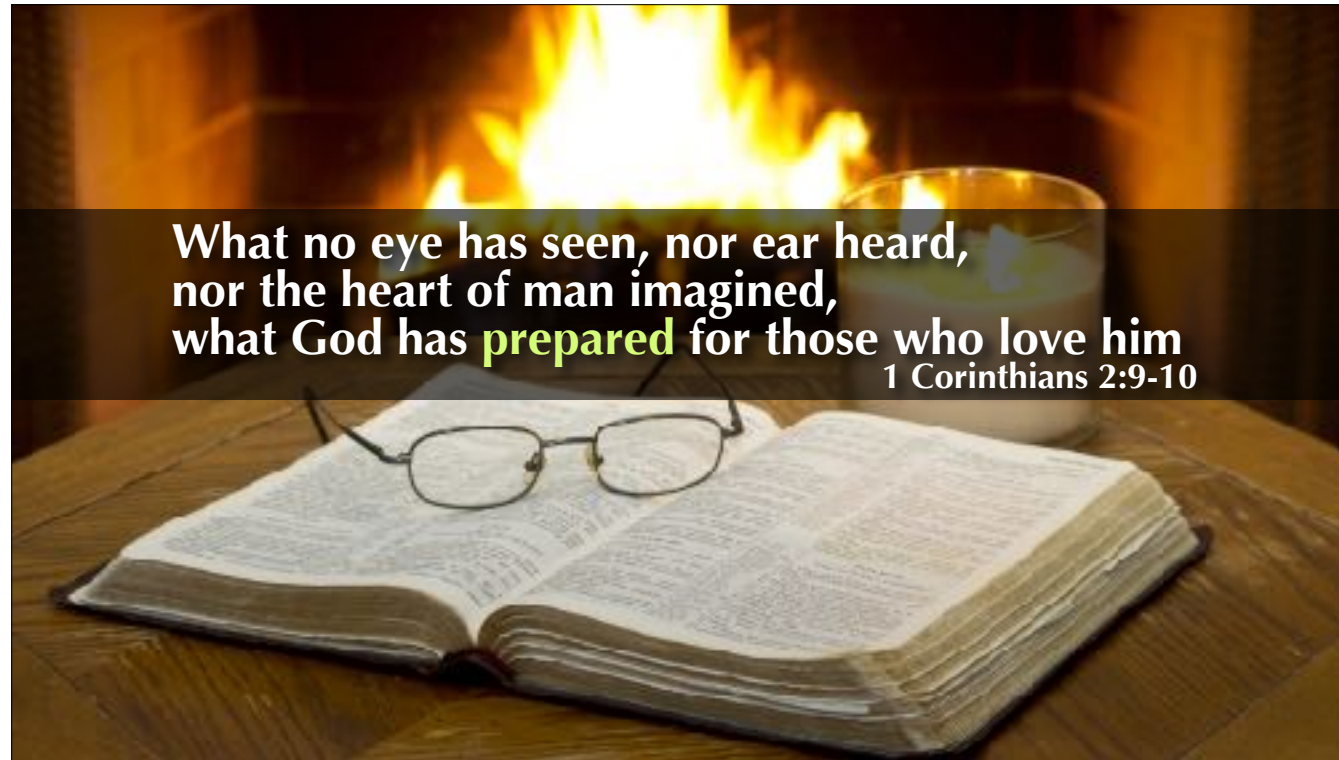
What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him
1 Corinthians 2:9-10

- The Importance of the Scriptures...
 - Hard questions.
 - We don't know everything about God



What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him
1 Corinthians 2:9-10

- But he has given us a piece of his mind... what we need to know.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (ESV) 9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” — 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. (Isaiah 64:4)



What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has **prepared** for those who love him
1 Corinthians 2:9-10

- 1 Corinthians 2:12 (ESV) Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

2. A Nation (—Son)

3. Bless All (—Jesus)

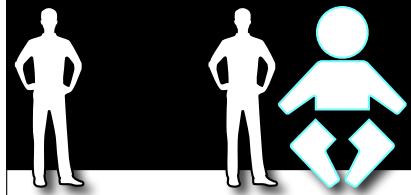


Abraham

- Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV) 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

2. A Nation (—Son)



Abraham

25 Years

How long?

- 25 years is a long time to wait for a baby when you are 75 years old

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land



- Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV) 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
- Genesis 12:4-9 (ESV) 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. 9 And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.
- Hebrews 11:8-10 (ESV) 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- Hebrews 11:13-16 (ESV) 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

- Genesis 15:7-21 (ESV) 7 And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” 8 But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” 9 He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
- 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
- 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”
- Genesis 17:8 (ESV)
- 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

3. Bless All (—Jesus)



- Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV) 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
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- 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

So Abram went, as Jehovah had told him
Genesis 12:4



Abraham



> 400 Years

- Genesis 12:4-9 (ESV) 4 **So Abram went, as the Lord had told him**, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, **"To your offspring I will give this land."** So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. 9 And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.
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Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

So Abram went, as Jehovah had told him
Genesis 12:4



Abraham



> 400 Years

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Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

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Abraham



> 400 Years

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Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

O Jehovah God, how am I to know that I will possess it?
Genesis 15:8



Abraham



> 400 Years

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Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

*By faith he went to live in the land of promise,
as in a foreign land*

Hebrews 11:9



Abraham

> 400 Years

- Hebrews 11:9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

O Jehovah God, how am I to know that I will possess it?
Genesis 15:8



Abraham



> 400 Years

- 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, “**Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.** 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. **16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation,** for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

O Jehovah God, how am I to know that I will possess it?
Genesis 15:8



Abraham



> 400 Years

- 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, **“To your offspring I give this land**, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised

Hebrews 11:13



Abraham



> 400 Years

- Hebrews 11:8-10 (ESV) 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- Hebrews 11:13-16 (ESV) 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

Yet He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child.

Acts 7:5



Abraham

> 400 Years

- Acts 7:2-7 (ESV) 2 And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, 3 and said to him, Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ 4 Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. 5 Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. 6 And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. 7 ‘But I will judge the nation that they serve,’ said God, ‘and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.’

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.

Psalm 105:11



Abraham

> 400 Years

- Psalms 105:8-11 (ESV) 8 He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, 9 the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, 10 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, 11 saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

*To you I will give the land of Canaan as
your portion for an inheritance.*

Psalm 105:11



Abraham

> 400 Years

- Psalms 105:12-13 (ESV) 12 When they were few in number, of little account, and sojourners in it, 13 wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people,

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

*To you I will give the land of Canaan as
your portion for an inheritance.*

Psalm 105:11



Abraham

> 400 Years

- Psalms 105:23-25 (ESV) 23 Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. 24 And the Lord made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes. 25 He turned their hearts to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

*To you I will give the land of Canaan as
your portion for an inheritance.*

Psalm 105:11



Abraham

> 400 Years

- Psalms 105:43-45 (ESV) 43 So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. 44 And he gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil, 45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

1. A Land

They despised the pleasant land, having no faith in His promise.

Psalm 106:24



WILDERNESS



Abraham

> 400 Years

- Psalms 106:24-27 (ESV) 24 Then they despised the pleasant land, having no faith in his promise. 25 They murmured in their tents, and did not obey the voice of the Lord. 26 Therefore he raised his hand and swore to them that he would make them fall in the wilderness, 27 and would make their offspring fall among the nations, scattering them among the lands.

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

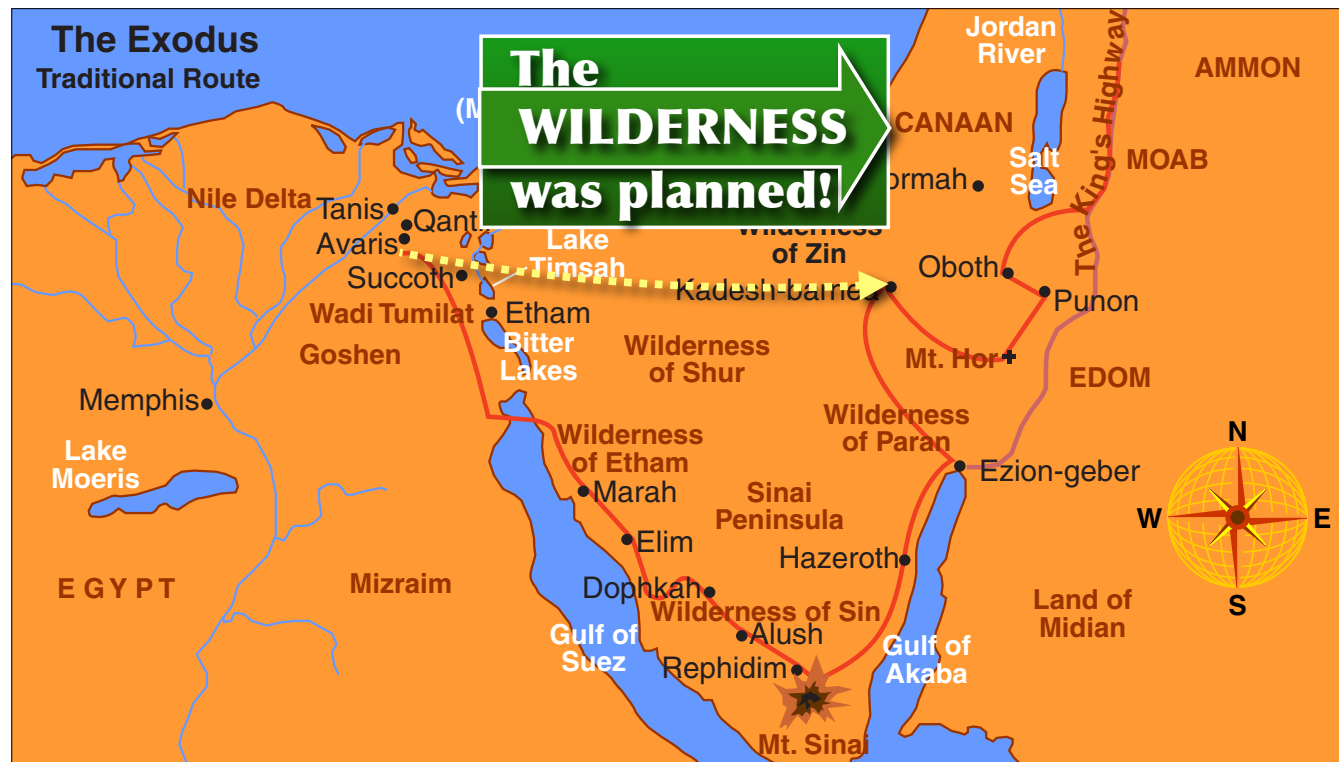
1. A Land



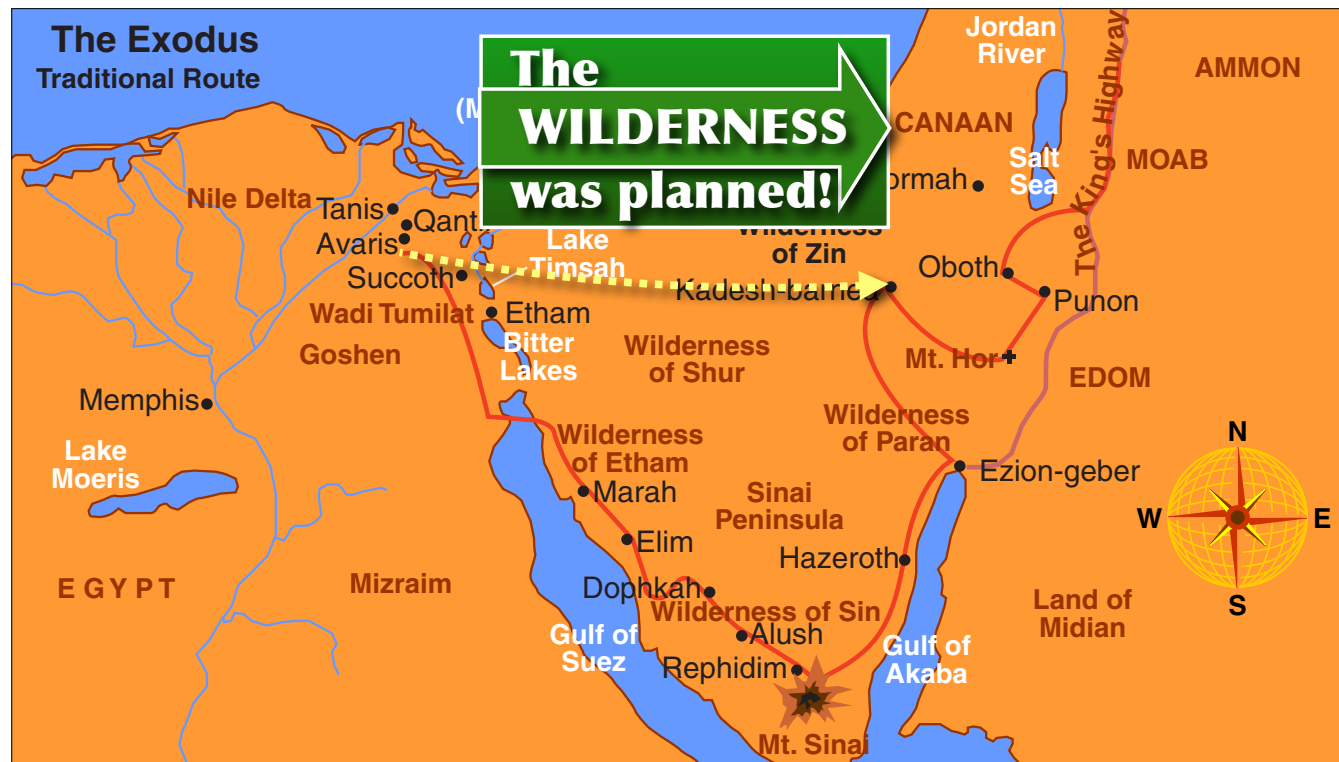
- The wilderness was planned by God!
- God's plan
 - Promise to Abraham
 - Time in Egypt: Joseph
 - Slavery
 - Brought out with joy.



- Exodus 13:17 (ESV) When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt."



- Exodus 14:1-3 (ESV) 1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, ‘They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’



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Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

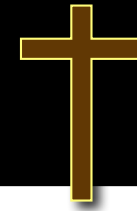
1. A Land

2. A Nation (—Son)

3. Bless All (—Jesus)



Abraham



~2000 Years

- Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV) 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

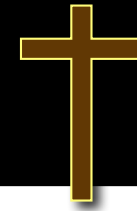
1. A Land

2. A Nation (—Son)

3. Bless All (—Jesus)



Abraham



~2000 Years

- Ephesians 1:9-10 (ESV) 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 **as a plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Jehovah's Promises to Abraham

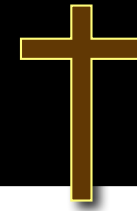
1. A Land

2. A Nation (—Son)

3. Bless All (—Jesus)



Abraham



~2000 Years

- Why did God take 2000 years to fulfill His promise to Abraham?
- He planned it this way!

Jehovah's Promises & Plans



- What are we to learn from this?
- When we are wondering about where God is and why he's taking so long to act we must remember that we can trust that our God keeps his promises.



- God is doing what is best for us.
 - 2 Peter 3:9: Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- He thinks of us
- He thinks long-term, eternal
- He fulfills his promise
- He is PATIENT



- He's preparing me.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (ESV) 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



- Keep seeking him
 - Psalms 13:3-4 (ESV) 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
- Prayers



- Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV) 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!



- Psalms 13:5-6 (ESV) 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.
- Abraham trusted when he left home, had child: Righteous!
- Israel failed to trusts God when they first came to land of promise: Angry



- Be Steadfast and love Him.
- James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.



Jehovah's Promises & Plans

He's doing what's best for me.
2 Peter 3:9

He's preparing me.
2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Keep seeking Him.
Psalm 13:3-4

Keep trusting Him.
Psalm 13:5-6

Be steadfast and love Him.
James 1:12

- We are going through a wilderness...
 - Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV) 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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How Long?

Psalm 13

Synopsis: Where is God? How long until Jehovah acts? Jehovah's promises to Abraham remind us that He has a plan and will keep His promises; but on His timetable. We can learn at least five lessons: 1) He's doing what's best for me; 2) He's preparing me; 3) Keep seeking Him; 4) Keep trusting Him; and, 5) Be steadfast and love Him.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”