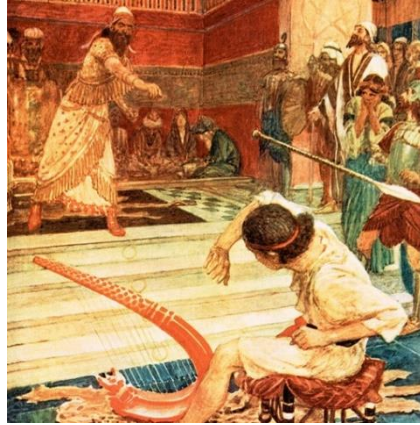


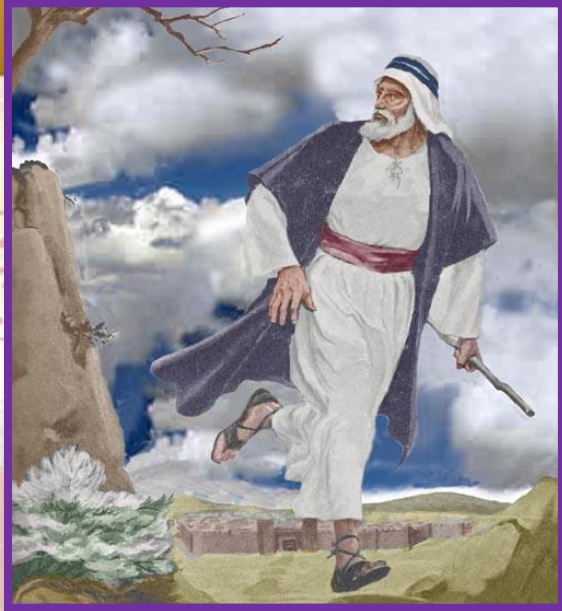
# WAITING IN THE CRUCIBLE



**“For you have need of patience” (Hebrews 10:36).**

**Why do we need patience? How is it related to our “crucibles”?**

**What examples of patience in tough times can be found in the Bible? What can we learn from them?**



- **What did God say about patiently waiting?**
  - ▶ **Patience and hope**
  - ▶ **Waiting in the crucible**
- **Biblical examples:**
  - ▶ **Patiently waiting: David**
  - ▶ **Impatience: Elijah**
- **Learning to wait patiently**

# PATIENCE AND HOPE

*"Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus," (Romans 15:5)*

Patience is one of God's attributes. His patience is not indifference, impotence, or indecision. God is patient because of His love for us. He wants to save as many people as possible (2P. 3:9, 15).



He's given us His Word to help us being patient even in the hardest times. This patience is closely related to hope (Romans 15:4).

We are being patient when we fully trust God and put our lives in His hands. We can trust that He will do the best for us at the perfect moment.





# WAITING IN THE CRUCIBLE

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law," (Galatians 4:4)

We can be sure that God will do the best thing for us at the perfect moment. But how can we know when is the perfect moment for God?

God has His own timeline: 70 years of slavery, 69 weeks for the Messiah to come, 1,260 years of persecution...

Does God have a timeline to take me out of the crucible? Sure! Meanwhile, how does the waiting help me?



It helps me to rely on God

It helps me to have a clearer picture of myself

It makes me persistent

My faith and trust are developed

God has time to make everything work together

It helps me to live by faith

# PATIENTLY WAITING: DAVID

**"The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed."** (1 Samuel 26:11)

David was anointed as king of Israel when he was very young. However, the journey to the throne was long and harsh.



He was called to play music to calm the king



He became a hero by killing Goliath



He served in the army and became famous



He befriended Jonathan, the heir apparent



The current king, Saul, wanted to kill him



He made peace with Saul by sparing his life



Saul persecuted him again



He spared Saul's life again, but lived as a fugitive

David decided not to take what God hadn't given to him yet. He waited for God's moment, although he had to go through challenging times and his life was in danger.



# IMPATIENCE: ELIJAH

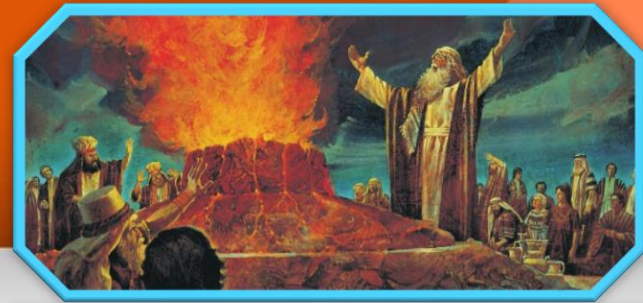
**"Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there,"** (1 Kings 19:3 NIV)

**Elijah had just seen God's powerful hand making fire and torrential rains come down from heaven. However, he was afraid of Jezebel's threat.**

**He ran away for more than 150 km. (93 miles) to Judah's border. Then he hid in a cave even farther. There he heard a loving voice reproaching him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"** (1K. 19:9).

**If Elijah had waited for God to act instead of running away, he would've made a greater reformation than the one he did later** (PK cp. 13, p. 167).

**Elijah wasn't the only impatient one. Remember how Sarah or Moses didn't want to wait, and the consequences of that** (Gn. 16:1-3; Nm. 20:10-12).



# LEARNING TO WAIT PATIENTLY

*"Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."* (Psalm 37:5)

Psalm 37 is a great lesson on how to patiently wait for God to act.

- 1. Do not exasperate (v. 1)
- 2. Trust God (v. 3)
- 3. Delight yourself in Him (v. 4)
- 4. Commit your way to God (v. 5)
- 5. Be quiet (v. 7)
- 6. Cease from anger (v. 8)
- 7. Wait on God (v. 9)

Maybe the weirdest piece of advice is to delight yourself in God. This involves trusting Him. Nothing can take our peace away because God is here, and He's acting. We praise Him because nobody can overcome Him.



**“I cannot read the purpose of God in my affliction, but He knows what is best, and I will commit my soul, body, and spirit to Him as unto my faithful Creator. ‘For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day’ (2 Timothy 1:12). If we educated and trained our souls to have more faith, more love, greater patience, and a more perfect trust in our heavenly Father, I know we would have more peace and happiness day by day as we pass through the conflicts of this life.”**