

# HEAVEN

Message Title: *Why is God Waiting?*

Message Date: May 17, 2026

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## CONNECT

If new people have joined your group, take time to introduce yourselves to each other.

Some questions to get the conversation rolling:

1. What's something really important you've been wrestling with or thinking about this week?
2. What's something you waited for that was worth the wait?

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## PRAY TOGETHER

Allow a moment for silence. This is often the most meaningful moment.

Then spend a few minutes asking God to meet each of you personally, right where you are. Pray that He would show you new and beautiful things and lead you further along the path of life. Allow time for everyone to contribute as God leads.

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## STUDY AND DISCUSSION

- Resist the urge to get through all the questions. It's OK if you don't. That's not the point. Let the Holy Spirit guide your reflection and discussion. Spend time reading and really thinking about what the Bible is saying.
- If your group has eight or more people, it might be helpful to break into circles of four or five for greater participation and deeper discussion. When you come back together, invite each group to share a few takeaways from their conversation.

## 2 Peter 3:3-15 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."

<sup>5</sup> They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. <sup>6</sup> Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. <sup>7</sup> And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

<sup>8</sup> But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants

everyone to repent. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

<sup>11</sup> Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, <sup>12</sup> looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. <sup>13</sup> But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

<sup>14</sup> And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

<sup>15</sup> And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him—

1. When you read about Jesus promising to return, what stands out most to you—and why? (See also: Matthew 24:1-14; John 14:1-3; Titus 2:11-14).
2. What might be underneath a person's resistance to believing in judgment or eternity?
3. What do you think Peter means when he says people *deliberately forget* God's past actions?
4. What does this passage teach you about God's perspective on time?
5. Have you ever wrestled with doubt about God's timing or promises? What did that look like for you?
6. How does Jesus' first coming shape your understanding of His second coming?
7. How do you personally make sense of suffering or delay in light of God's promises?
8. Who in your life might God be patiently waiting for—and how might you be part of their story?
9. What specific instructions does Peter give us about how to live while we wait?

10. What does it mean for you personally to live a *peaceful, pure and blameless* life (vs. 14)?
11. Where do you sense an invitation to grow in holiness—not out of fear, but out of love and purpose?
12. How do you balance *urgency* (sharing your faith) with *patience* and compassion toward others?
13. What does it look like to create a space where questions about faith are safe to explore?
14. If someone asked you what you believe about Jesus’ return, what would you say?
15. How would you summarize Peter’s main message to discouraged or skeptical believers?

The return of Jesus is not only a hope but a summons to live in readiness and responsibility.  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION

After this week’s lesson, what’s one thought, question or takeaway you’re sitting with right now? Pause and ask God what He wants to say to you. Allow time for Him to speak, being sensitive to thoughts that come to mind. Growing often comes by simply making yourself available to God.

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## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Memorizing Scripture enables us to carry within us the life-giving, life-shaping words of God at all times in all places. Here’s a verse to memorize based on this week’s teaching:

*And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.*

**Hebrews 9:27-28 (NLT)**

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## PRAY

- Invite someone to close your time in prayer.