



# Heart-to-Heart

## When Waiting is Your Agenda: A Lesson from Mount Sinai

Week 7 | March 24, 2017

Behold, the Lord's eye is upon those who fear Him [who revere and worship Him with awe], who wait for Him *and* hope in His mercy *and* loving-kindness, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. Our inner selves wait [earnestly] for the Lord; He is our Help and our Shield. For in Him does our heart rejoice, because we have trusted (relied on and been confident) in His holy name. *Let Your mercy and loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, in proportion to our waiting and hoping for You.* Psalm 33:18-22 (AVB – *italics are mine*)

Red Sea Rule #5: Stay Calm and Confident and Give God Time to Work

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The basic chronology of events in the wilderness journey with the length of time between stops (taken from [biblenumbers.files.wordpress.com](http://biblenumbers.files.wordpress.com)):

- Part 1: Passover to Crossing Red Sea: 24 days
- Part 2: Arrive at Desert of Sin: 7 days
- Part 3: Arrive at Mount Sinai: 16 days
- Part 4: Tabernacle Set Up at Mount Sinai: 300 days (10 months)
- Part 2: Leave Mount Sinai: 49 days (7 weeks)
- Part 3: Journey to Kadesh Barnea: 311 days (10.4 months)
- Part 4: Dwelling at Kadesh Barnea: 13,590 days (453 months) (37.75 years)
- Part 5: Arrive in Canaan / Cross Jordan River: 609 days (20.3 months)

Elapsed time from the 1st Passover in Egypt to Crossing the Jordan River is 40.8 solar years (497 months). The spiritual number 497 means 'Glory to God in the Highest'! It is quite a feat for God to have taken a rebellious rabble in Egypt and transformed them into a disciplined conquering army devoted to Him.

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**MIRROR MOMENT:** When God is doing something significant in you and for you, your agenda will often be about waiting on Him.

The most common Hebrew word in the Bible that is translated wait, in the sense of waiting on the Lord, is qavah:

Isaiah 40:31

Seek:

- To track down, to trace
- To perceive
- To search or look for
- To ask or inquire for
- To learn or discover
- To aim at, pursue

When we seek the Lord, it's about seeing who He is; His nature, His will and His glory, or His

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Acts 17:22 – 28a

Matthew 6:31- 33

Seek: \_\_\_\_\_

- ... those who **seek the Lord** lack no good thing. [Psalm 34:10b]
- You will **seek me** and you will find me when you **seek me** with your whole heart. [Jeremiah 29:13]
- Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or **seek help from the LORD**. [Isaiah 30:1]
- If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and **seek my face** and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. [2 Chronicles 7:14]

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- If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. [Colossians 3:1]
- And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who **earnestly seek him**. [Hebrews 11:6]

Write down what you typically do instead of waiting on, or resting in the Lord:

Exodus 31:1

### Further Study:

5 Reasons God Makes Us Wait | RELEVANT Magazine

<http://archives.relevantmagazine.com/god/practical-faith/5-reasons-god-makes-us-wait>

Timing is Everything | Excerpt from a series on Lessons in the Wilderness by Reverend Bruce Goettsche

<http://www.unionchurch.com/archive/052001.html>

1. What would you say is the current "Waiting Room" of your life?

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2. In regard to the above answer, what would you say is God's planned destination for you?

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Look up the word or key word in a Bible concordance or do a word search on [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and from the list, choose a verse to be your focus during this season of waiting.

3. Read: Rule 6 in "The Red Sea Rules"
4. Read Exodus 21-24
5. Read the verses below. Choose one, or a few related ones, to meditate and pray on. Write it/them on an index card and keep as the focus of your heart and mind as you wait on the Lord in whatever specific situation you find yourself needing Him.
  - Psalm 5:1-3
  - Psalm 27:14
  - Psalm 33:20
  - Psalm 37:7-9
  - Psalm 40:1-5
  - Psalm 52:8-9
  - Psalm 62:1-12
  - Psalm 103:5-6; 13-19
  - Lamentations 3:21-26
6. Read Psalm 106:7-48 about the Israelites. Meditate on verses 13-15 and 43-45.