

# **Walk Thru the Bible**

## **#10: Esther ... Wait—then Christ**

**Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Malachi 3:1**

**Dr. Robert Morris ---- August 2, 2026**

Good morning, Grace. Well, this is it—the culmination of our summer together. I want to take a quick minute to remind you that this is our last Sunday to be all together. Next Sunday (repeat after me) 9:15 and 11:00. Everybody ... 9:15 and 11:00 next Sunday. Don't mess that up, all right? As we move back into the school year a lot of ministry programming begins to pick back up. It's an exciting time here at Grace. And there are a couple of things happening next Sunday that are getting a head start on the Fall Kickoff, and that's Grief Share and Divorce Care. And I want to stop for a second and make you aware of these, because if you are going through one of these seasons--whether you've had a marriage that has ended or a loved one who has passed away—you do not have to walk through that alone. It is meant to be walked through together in community. These two groups that start next week at 10:45 are a great place to do that. Maybe that's not you, but it might be somebody you know. I'd ask you this week to pray about it. Is there a family member or coworker or a neighbor who shouldn't have to walk this season alone? Please take that step and invite them this week. We're looking forward to the Fall Kickoff. It's going to be a great year in the life of our church. So, I just wanted to make sure that you're aware of those two things happening next week.

Okay, are you guys ready? Let's do it. We've got our last four hand signs. We're going to get right to it. If you haven't been joining us, we've been spending ten weeks going through the entire Old Testament, trying to understand the big picture of what God is doing throughout the Old Testament. And we're going to wrap it up with our last four signs and key words this morning.

Now if I can remind you where we left off next week, I don't want you to miss the big picture. The temptation is to look at all these little things that are happening and seeing them as little pieces. But there's a bigger picture, a bigger puzzle, happening. The Lord is orchestrating. He is the one putting the pieces together in the puzzle, and He's got two big purposes. He wants to shape His people, and He wants to write His perfect redemption story.

And when we left off last week, God's people were put in a little bit of a timeout season, a season of discipline. And after that season of discipline, the Lord begins to help them restore things. And we'll start with our last our last one: Zerubbabel, who built the Temple. And now the Lord is going to continue His restoration project, right? He's going to continue His Extreme Makeover—Israel Edition.



**EXTREME  
MAKEOVER**  
HOME EDITION

He has moved the bus on the temple. But He still has more rebuilding to do, right? One wave of people has already returned. The early adopters, you could say, are in. But there are still a lot more of the people of Judah who are still in Persia.

And remember last week, one of the things I said is that I love that even in this discipline, this exile season, one of the graces of God is that you see Him continue to protect and to take care those who are still trusting and loving and serving Him.

**Esther--Queen**

And so, in the middle of these three returns (wave one has already returned), the people of Judah who remain in Persia and haven't come back yet now find their lives in peril. They are in jeopardy. There is a new threat.

There's a government official named Haman, and he is devising a plan for a genocide of the Jews out of his hatred for man named Mordecai.

But God is not done acting. He's still moving the pieces around. And there's a Jewish girl named Esther. And Esther wins what we will call a Miss Persia beauty contest and receives the honor of being the new queen. And so, Esther is queen. That's the next thing we're going to remember. Esther is queen. Now Esther's ethnicity is not known at the time she wins this beauty contest. She sits in this very influential position. And now she might have the ear of the king. And, oh, by the way, it just so happens that her cousin is Mordecai. And in a secret conversation, Mordecai comes to her and implores Esther and says, *Look, you may have been, perhaps, destined and created to be in this moment for this time.* We know that famous line from the Book of Esther: *Who knows, that maybe you've come to this position for such a time as this.*

Don't forget, the implication is this. That this has always been part of some kind of bigger plan. Two of them now get to play a part in it, and specifically, Esther. That beauty pageant was not just a beauty pageant. You thought it was a little piece of the puzzle—oh no, there's a bigger picture going on here.

If you read the Book of Esther, even though God's formal name is never mentioned, you will see His fingerprints all over this book. He has orchestrated the desires of the king, including Esther in just this right moment when she might be able to step into her moment with courage and bravery and a backbone of steel. And God uses her to save her people.

So, if you want to remember the big idea of the Book of Esther, I'll write this down. The words are: "For such a time as this ..." That's the big idea of the Book of Esther: "For such a time as this ..." So, how are we going to remember Esther? We're going to get loose here. We've got to do some things today, okay? We're going to give Esther a crown for queen [*with both hands mimic setting a crown on your head*]. Do it with me. Esther—Queen. That's our motion for Esther.

### **Ezra--People**

Next the rebuilding is going to continue. Back in Judah the second of the three waves is now coming. And they rebuild the temple. But now, a man named Ezra is going to lead a spiritual revival to break down the city. Ezra is going to rebuild the people. After generations of Judah neglecting God's word, he gathers everybody up, and it says, "The hand of the Lord was on Ezra." He reads the entire Old Testament—the entire Law and Torah—and the people respond. And there's a spiritual revival and a spiritual fervor that breaks out in the city.

## **Ezra 7:10**

**For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach His statutes and rules in Israel.**

And I love the Book of Ezra. As I was rereading it, I saw one verse that I thought completely encompasses what Ezra did. It's Ezra 7:10. It says, "For Ezra set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach His statutes and rules in Israel." There are three things Ezra does if you want to follow a pattern to rebuild people. He's going to study. He's going to do it. And he's going to teach. He's going to study it, he's going to do it, and he's going to teach. Ezra—People—Ezra rebuilds the people. Do you want to know how to remember this? Write this down. This is the big idea of the Book of Ezra. He's going to know the word, he's going to do the word, and he's going to teach others. (Pardon me, I'm trying to go fast. I think you can read that. It's not quite as bad as a doctor's handwriting.) He's going to know, he's going to do, and he's going to teach.

And friends, that model still works to this day to rebuild people. Frankly, it's the foundation that our church has been built on these fifty-five plus years we've been making disciples in the city of Austin. And if you want to be about the work of restoring God's people, if you want to be part of God's big discipleship plan in people's lives and rebuild them to wholeness, you too can follow this model. You can know the word of God. You can understand it. You can seek it out and continue to take it in. Not only that, you can do the difficult and strenuous and maybe even lifelong work of taking that word, taking that knowledge, and applying it to your life. Bible study is not done until you've done something with it in your life. And then you can find a way, regardless of where you are on the spiritual maturity spectrum—whether you're a new believer or you've been following Jesus for fifty years—you can find some way to help someone else know and do what you've come to love knowing and doing. And soon you will see people rebuilt. You will see people restored and reformed and, by God's grace, become like Christ in all their lives.

So, Ezra rebuilds and reforms people. Here's how we're going to remember Ezra. We're going to tap our shoulders ... Ezra—People [*with each hand tap the first two fingers to front of*

*shoulders, twice per word]. So, we've got Ezra—People. Here are the two we've done so far. We've got Esther—Queen, Ezra—People. All right, very good.*

## **Nehemiah--Walls**

Now the third person to lead a project is a man named Nehemiah. And the final thing that needs to be rebuilt is the walls of the city. And it's very hard in our modern mind to try to explain how big of a threat it was to have a city without protection or walls. There's a reason that the Book of Proverbs says that a man without self-control is like a city broken down and without walls. There's destruction. The enemy has free reign. There are only terror and fear and anxiety and constant threat. So, when Nehemiah is in Persia, he hears that the condition of the walls of the city is so bad. And he is grieved by the condition of the walls. And, oh, by the way, he just happens to be cupbearer to the king. He's having his own "for such a time as this" moment where he might have access and the ear and the trust of the king of Persia.

So, Nehemiah is going to rebuild the walls. And what does he do? If I can, I'll run you through this book quickly. The big idea is that it's a great lesson in strategic leadership, leading a team, accomplishing something that could not be accomplished alone.

The first thing Nehemiah does that we see is he prays. Around here at Grace, we say it this way. When something big comes up, or maybe even something not that big comes up, we say, "Better pray." It's important to remember that before Nehemiah takes any action, he seeks the Lord.

As I was rereading this book, I was grieved by some of the reality in my own life—how often I skip this step. I don't know if you're like me in that way. See, the more years I live, the more times I've seen things happen, and the more I've picked up patterns and know how the world works. I think I'm a man of some general intelligence, and the more I live, the temptation I have is to go straight into solution mode—straight into *What's the problem? Let's get it fixed*. And one of the great lessons of the Book of Nehemiah is that we better pray. You better seek the Lord. Do not get out ahead of God. Frankly, I grieved this week at my desk about how many times in my life I've skipped this step. I've faced some obstacle in my life, and I just went to it on my own and forgot about God in that moment and never invited Him in. I'm wondering how much pain I might have caused myself and others because I just didn't invite Him in. I just didn't

take a moment and say, “God, how do You want me to respond here? What do You want me to do? What’s the best course of action here?” And then, if you’re like me, shut up for a couple of minutes and maybe God will speak to you and guide you. Is that just me? Am I out here on an island? Okay, all right.

First, he prays. He knows he needs wisdom, guidance, and direction. He knows the job is bigger than what he can handle. The next thing he does is to get permission. You’ll see this in the Book of Nehemiah. He gets permission. He goes to the king. He goes to him respectfully and clearly. And it says the “good hand of my God was upon Nehemiah” in this meeting. And while he’s in the permission cycle, he’s also (they’re kind of simultaneous) making a plan.

He makes a plan. He has an organized plan of attack. He tells the king exactly what he needs. He had thought about it. He wasn’t just throwing things off the wall and seeing if they would stick. He had a plan for this course of action.

And ultimately, this leads to—I know, you’re going to love this—another P. This leads to supernatural productivity. Nehemiah leads the people of his country, 50,000 of them, to rebuild the city walls of Jerusalem in fifty-two days—walls forty feet high and eight feet thick—without the help of modern construction technology. And his team accomplishes this massive undertaking so that the safety and security of the people could be had.

And it’s an amazing story of strategic leadership. If you’re leading people, maybe at work or in some other context, it is a great lesson in how to lead a team well. If you want to remember the Book of Nehemiah, remember these P’s: he prays, he gets permission and a plan, and that leads to productivity.

The way to remember Nehemiah is this. When he gets to Jerusalem the walls are knee high [*bend forward slightly and let both hands touch knees*]. Knee-high-miah—there’s your dad joke for the day, okay? Here we go: Nehemiah—Walls. He’s going to build the walls up [*raise hands over head when you say “Walls”*]. Very good. Let’s do all three together. We’ve got Esther—Queen, Ezra—People, Nehemiah—Walls. Very good. You guys are dominating it.

### Wait ... Christ

Okay, things are happily ever after, right? We get to the end of the Old Testament and naturally, I think many of God’s people begin to wonder, *What does all this renewal and*

*rebuilding mean? Does it mean what I think it means? Because it's looking like things are restored. It's looking like we're on our way to the fulfillment of God's promises. All signs are pointing towards Israel returning to its former glory. Could it be that the times of David are returning? They're back in the Promised Land. We're on our way, right? It can't be long now.*

### **Malachi 3:1**

**Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts."**

And this is fueled by the prophets of the time, who are saying things like this. Malachi says this. He's one of the prophets towards the end of the Old Testament. He says this in Malachi 3:1: "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." I'm sending my messenger. "And the Lord"—another person—"whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple." The Lord is coming. They're thinking, *Great! That's awesome! We just finished rebuilding the temple. This is great.* "And the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts."

A messenger is coming. *Is that you, Malachi, or is there going to be someone here shortly? The Lord, the Messiah we seek, is coming. We've rebuilt the temple, and it says He's coming to the temple.*

If you put yourself into this position, the hearers of this could come to believe this is going to happen soon. If you put yourselves in their shoes, this is exciting, friends. The graph is up and to the right. This is going the right direction.

Instead, after the prophet Malachi speaks, for the next four hundred years the people of Israel get ... silence. Nothing.

The Old Testament ends in this expectation of what's to come, and then it just stops. No more prophets speaking, no more official words from God. For hundreds of years, the people of God, the faithful ones, had to have wondered if God was going to deliver on His promises. Because it's not looking like it.

See, the people of Israel don't know this is the end of the Old Testament. And so, every year, every month that goes by, it looks like the promises of God are not going to be true. There's no king in David's line yet. And slowly but surely, there's nothing but more oppression, despair, and a loss of identity. And the clock keeps ticking ... and nothing!

Now if we can sit in that place for a moment, I think it is important for you to understand some of the things that happen in the next four hundred years on a global scale. I'd love to give you a couple of minutes of a brief history of what's happening in the world between Malachi speaking and the start of the New Testament. I hope it helps you enter that space and that it informs you of what comes next.

For the next four hundred years, here's what is going to happen. The nation of Israel is going to be passed around like a geopolitical football from empire to empire, because it is at the crossroads of multiple continents, and it's a very valuable piece of real estate (and it always has been).

Persia is ruling Israel, but then in 331 BC a man named Alexander the Great conquers the known world. He is a student of Aristotle's. His passion was to unify western civilization. He wanted to "Greek-ify" the world. They called this process Hellenization. And the people of Israel have to begin to coalesce to a more Greek way of living.

And after the death of Alexander, the empire is split, and the area that Israel is in is led by a man named Ptolemy. He's pretty tolerant, and things are pretty decent under his rule. The people of Israel are allowed to keep some of their customs, and there's relative peace.

But in 198 BC a man named Antiochus takes over. And he is extremely passionate about Hellenization, this Greek-ifying process. And he begins to impose many of these things by force.

And following that, in 175 BC, a man name Antiochus Epiphanes come to power, and he doubles down on this. He develops this radical anti-Jewish program. He destroyed the scriptures, he did not allow the Sabbath or the festivals to be observed. The food laws were abolished, and circumcision couldn't be practiced. There were these critical parts of the faithful ones' faith that they could not do. They were devastated. Many of these things became capital crimes. And Antiochus Epiphanes' rule climaxes in 167 BC, when he has the audacity to sacrifice a pig to Zeus on the altar of the temple.



And the people can't take it anymore, and a revolt breaks out. This is called the Maccabean Revolt. And for many of you who know history, this is the foundation of the Hanukkah celebration for our Jewish friends. They begin to win some of their freedoms back.

Things are decent for a while until the Romans come through in 63 BC. Pompey conquers the land, and a system of local governors and rulers is put into place. And in 40 BC a man named Herod is put in charge of the land of Israel as its ruler or governor. And although he accomplishes many great building projects, he's a vicious and cruel and ruthless man.

So, if you're there in this moment and sitting through these years, by the time you get to the start of the New Testament, people are groaning under foreign rule, there's oppression and limited religious liberty, and they're being attacked in extreme ways without benevolence or integrity. Their government officials are abusing power to aid themselves and look out for their own interests. The remaining Jews are forced to fight among each other for whatever little pieces of political power they can muster. This doesn't sound anything like now, right? This atmosphere is building, and it's creating this messianic fervor. *Would someone save us from this? It's been so, so long.*

And I don't know, friends, how many times over those four hundred years the faithful ones of God—they're called "the remnant" in the Bible—"the remaining ones"—they must have asked, *God, what are You doing? This does not make sense. Surely this can't be part of Your plan. How can You continue to allow us to struggle like this?*

Friends, we have the benefit of hindsight. We know that God is still acting. We know that something, or more importantly, someone, is about to come. He's right around the corner. We know that the Greeks are going to bring this more universal language, and when the New Testament is written, more people will be able to read it, interact with it, and understand it. We know the Romans are going to build a system of roads that connect the known world, so that when the New Testament happens, the Gospel message can spread quickly. They don't have that benefit. They're just losing hope. They're wondering if God will ever do what He has said He will do. This apparent inactivity from God must have confused His people. This kind of silence and this length of silence will be a part of His plan. Generation after generation comes and goes over four hundred years.

So, our last key word, our last thing to remember in the Old Testament is this: Wait. Here's how we're going to remember that. We're going to lean forward on the edge of our

seats—Wait—almost to the point where we’re about to fall over. Because that must have been what it felt like for them. We’re going to wait.

So, what does this wait thing have to do with us, friends? I thought I’d spend a little bit of extra time here in this moment. Because if we can put ourselves in these four hundred years, I think it’s important for us. Because, as disciples of Jesus, we also will live lives marked by waiting. And man, do we hate waiting. I mean, our modern world and all our conveniences are instant all the time. Immediate gratification has created a seriously atrophied “waiting” muscle. We hate waiting.

As disciples of Jesus, we will live lives marked by waiting. There are a couple of different kinds. There’s the collective, corporate waiting that we’re waiting on. We’re waiting on God to restore all things and make everything right; to restore all that is broken and bent in this world. We live in this kind of gap between what has already been promised and not yet realized.

But we also have these individual seasons of waiting, where the circumstances of our lives cause us to feel like there’s not a lot of hope. We’re not hearing from the Lord. That prayer we keep sending is not getting answered. We’re not sure if God can do what He’s promised to do. *Will He take care of us? Will He provide for us? Will He make that thing happen? He’s not accomplishing what I want Him to accomplish, and He’s certainly not doing it on the timetable I would propose.* And all you want is for God to act or speak or do something. And often times there are these seasons we go through where there is just nothing.

And the Old Testament, I think, is teaching us something: that God is still doing something in the waiting. And so, the two big questions I always want to answer are these. What is God’s purpose, and what is He doing in the waiting? And what is God doing in me while I wait?

What is He doing? Because I can ask the natural question. I’ve asked it many times in my life. *God, if You can do everything sooner, why not do it sooner?* And the big idea is that He is working His plan. His ways are higher than our ways. He has big goals. He sees the big picture. He knows how all the puzzle pieces are working together. And so, what is He doing? If that last four hand signs have told us anything, it’s that He is working His plan.

I think the more prescient question for us this morning is: What is God doing in us while we wait? What’s He doing in us? God has a big goal for my life. He has a big goal for your life.

And that goal, if we read our Scriptures, is that He would conform and transform you to the image and likeness of His Son Jesus Christ. That is His big project for your life.

We can assume that if we are in a season of waiting, at minimum, it is serving that purpose—to make us more Christ-like, to transform and conform us to the image of His Son. Because often, it's in these seasons of waiting, as I've seen in my life, that I'm being shaped and molded and prepared for what's next. So, the challenge is this. *Okay, God, if that's what You're doing, if that's the project You're on and I find myself in a season of waiting, how do I align myself with what You are doing? How do I align myself?*

Because the frustrating part of a season of waiting is that we feel like we are out of control. We feel like we're completely powerless. We tempted to try and manufacture some result ourselves, because we just want to do something. And there are some things we can do while we wait. If you're in a waiting season of some sort, here are four things you can do while you wait.

**The first thing you can do is trust.** Friends, if you made the decision, if you've settled in your mind that you serve a good Father, then I'm not saying this is easy, especially in the face of many of the circumstances that live in this room ... but have you decided, are you the kind of person who trusts the good, good Father?

Now for me this is not a blind trust. It doesn't take long for me to recount forty-four years of my life and a very long track record of God's goodness and faithfulness to me in so many big and even small ways. My job is to challenge myself to remember these things. *God, You have been good to me so often.* I will trust the one who is putting the puzzle pieces together.

**The next thing you can do if you find yourself in a season of waiting is grow.** I can assume that if I'm waiting, there's something the Lord is preparing me for, and I want to get ready for that. I want to ask Him about that in my relationship with Him. As I talk with Him, I can ask Him, *God, what are You doing? What are You preparing me for? How do You need me to grow in this season? I can't do anything about this other stuff. But I'm going to continue to try and stay connected with You so that I might be able to grow in Christ-likeness and be prepared for whatever is next.* And so, the best thing you might be able to do in a season of waiting is stay in connection with the Lord and grow and ask Him, *What do You want from me?*

**The next thing you can do in a season of waiting is obey.** The Lord has already given us so many clear track records. We have plenty that is already laid out. So, while we wait, we

can obey. I love how many of the stories in the Old Testament that we went through this summer—Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David—all of them involved very long seasons of waiting. All were being prepared inwardly to eventually be prepared for what is to come. So, it's their obedience in the meantime that make them great examples to follow. Because obedience and waiting are connected to Scriptures.

**Galatians 6:9**

**And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.**

If you don't know this verse, if this is not one that's in your memory bank, every believer should know this verse. I'm just going to put it out here to the side. Galatians 6:9. Some of you know this. It says, "Let us not grow weary in doing good." Don't stop obeying. "For in due season"—maybe after a season of waiting is done and complete—"we will reap, if we do not give up."

So, in the waiting I'll choose to obey. And it may one little step after another. It may be that little baby steps are all I can muster. But I'm going to choose to obey during this waiting season.

**Then finally**, when that particular waiting season is over and maybe God speaks, He acts, or the situation is resolved, the job offer has been accepted—whatever that is—**we celebrate**. We commemorate that. We tell others. We spread the word. We praise God so that we have the fuel in the future to do this again, because another waiting season may be on the horizon.

So, friends, if you're waiting—and again, I don't know all the stories in this room—but if you're waiting and you hope to align yourself with God's plan and purposes, you can do some things. You are not powerless. During this season—maybe you're waiting on a job, maybe you've been waiting on that spouse for a long time, maybe you've been waiting for that wayward child to come to his or her senses, or you're waiting on some form of justice on this earth that you're not getting with this lifelong bent or struggle, waiting for all the integrity and honesty to finally pay off in your job—whatever it is that you're waiting on, you can trust. And doubt may

creep in, but you've settled in your mind that God is the good Father, He is the great puzzle putter-together—I will trust Him. You can grow. You can cultivate the kind of relationship where you're asking, *God, what are you preparing me for? How can I grow during this season?* You can obey. You can do what you've already been instructed to do. And then, finally, when He does speak or act, you can celebrate so that you have the fuel to do that again down the road.

**Galatians 4:4**

**But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son ...**

And so, friends, after four hundred and something years of God's people wondering, waiting, perhaps doubting if God is even still there and if He can actually deliver on His promises, the Bible tells us this in Galatians 4: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son." God is moving the pieces around so that in the "fullness of time," when the New Testament begins, the world is ready and the systems are in place.

And we see the New Testament writers start with an angel visiting a man named Zechariah. And he tells him, *Hey, Zechariah, you know that barren and elderly wife of yours, Elizabeth? She's going to have a baby. And then he quotes the passage from Malachi and says, He's the messenger. He's the one who will prepare the way for THE one.*

And an angel's going to visit a young woman named Mary. And he's going to tell her, *In spite of you being a virgin, the son inside of you is the heir to David's throne. He will reign forever and ever and ever, and His name will be Jesus, and He will be the Christ.*

There it is. The long season of waiting is almost over.

We've got half of it here—we've got Wait already. Now we're going to learn the sign for Christ. We're going to remember Wait by leaning forward ... Wait ... and then we're going to put a cross up for Christ. Cross your arms [*with one arm vertical and the other horizontal, form a cross and let arms touch midway between wrists and elbows*].

Okay, let's do all four. Here we go, friends. Are we ready? I believe in you. Here we go: Esther—Queen, Ezra—People, Nehemiah—Walls, Wait ... (no, keep waiting)—Christ. I'm

going to play with you a little bit there, I know, but listen ... that was not a short season of waiting. That was a long wait.

All right, friends, we've come to the end. And you were gracious with me last week as I was catching up with being gone. But I also felt a little bit of the appropriate amount of "Hey, buddy, get your act together" from the crowd. I felt that last week.

So, we're going to give this a shot—all forty hand signs. I've been studying hard, I rewatched the videos this week. And sometimes you just have to find out whether you can pass the test or not. So, let's go. Let's stand up. If you're new joining us, just try to follow along. All forty—here we go. Are we ready? Get loose. Here we go. We've got Creation, Fall, Flood, Nations, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Passover, Law, Tabernacle, Offerings, Feasts, Counting, Spying, Wandering, Dying, Second Law, Joshua, Divide, Conquer, Twelve Tribes, Judges, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Everyone did what was right in his own eyes, except for Ruth and Samuel, United Kingdom, Saul—No Heart, David—Whole Heart, Solomon—Half Heart, Divided Kingdom, Mostly Bad Kings, Prophets Speak, Israel—Scattered, Judah—Exiled, Judah—Returned, Zerubbabel—Temple, Esther—Queen, Ezra—People, Nehemiah—Walls, Wait ... Christ.

All right, very good! Yes! All right, grab a seat. Wow, you guys dominated that. I am so proud of you, Grace Covenant Church. Man, excellent work. Friends, you will forever benefit from knowing the entire scope of the Old Testament, knowing the big picture of that. It will benefit your spiritual life in ways you may not even know. And if you want to keep that going, I want to remind you that on our website you can find the video. If you want to quiz each other in a few weeks in your family, you can pull up that video and keep it fresh. If you didn't get one of our Bible timelines, one of these two options, we still have those out in the lobby available, if you want to dive deeper into that. But way to go, friends.

Everything that we've spent the last ten weeks studying has been pointing to this moment, to this man Jesus the Christ. He is the promise of the covenant. He is the heir to David's throne forever. He's the way, the truth, and the life. He's the Savior for all of those who would believe. And He rose from the dead to prove that He was exactly who He claimed to be.

And he we are, again, as His followers, as His disciples, and we're waiting for that ultimate return when He will come back and set everything right. And in the fullness of time, forty hand signs in, God sent His Son. And in the next fullness of time, He will send Him again.

And now while we wait, we trust. We grow. We obey. And we wait to have the most epic of celebrations far beyond what we could ever imagine, one day out there at God's choosing in the fullness of time.

And in the meantime, we'll have a bunch of mini celebrations. I say we schedule one of those maybe every seven days, and we'll call it Sunday, when we gather and we celebrate our King and our Savior. Let me pray for us, Grace.

God, we come to You today in gratitude and trust in Your sovereign plan. From the beginning of time until now You have been orchestrating and moving the pieces of this world around to bring Yourself glory, to shape Your people, and to write Your perfect redemption story. And we are just so grateful to get to play a small part in that work. God, would You help us today be men and women who learn how to wait on You? And there are some in this room today who aren't just waiting on Your return, but who are in deeply personal and difficult waiting seasons. God, I lift my brothers and sisters up in prayer—those who are in those seasons. And I humbly ask that You would comfort them, that they would sense Your presence, and that You would help them trust in Your timing and Your plan, even on the days when they just don't know if they can. And God, we come to You this morning in worship, and we celebrate all that You've done, and all that You will do one day in Your fullness of time. God, help us to be a people who serve our King Jesus Christ. And it's in His name we pray. Amen.