

Heb. 1:1-4; Gal. 4:4,5; Micah 5:2; Luke 2 - CHRISTMAS STATEMENTS
"I AM IN CONTROL."

(NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Between "in times past" and "in these last days" was _____
_____!

Gal. 4:4 – (NKJV) "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son..."

In Greek there are two words for time: "Kairos" which means "opportune time" - you seize an opportunity that comes your way, maybe quite by accident. And "kronos" from which comes our word "chronology" - the orderly progression of events, when everything follows the proper sequence, and is exactly right.

The word used in Galatians 4:4 is "_____."

- a. It was the right time culturally.
- b. It was also the right time politically.

Luke 2:1-4. "Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world". Micah 5:2 prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah – where Joseph and Mary went.

I. WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, REMEMBER:

A. God has a _____. Jer. 29:11 - "I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

B. We don't know all it involves.

C. God is _____ behind the scenes to accomplish His plan.

D. When the time is _____, we'll see the fulfillment.

When it's not right, God says no. When the time's not right, God says _____.
When you're not right, God says grow. When everything's right, God says _____!

How can we keep our faith in the "waiting room"? How can we keep going while we're waiting?

In Luke 2 we are introduced to Simeon. He was “just and devout” Luke 2:25 says. Luke 2:26 – 28 (NKJV) : And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God...”

This just and devout man shows us

II. HOW TO KEEP GOING WHILE YOU’RE WAITING – Luke 2

A. Get a _____ from God – v. 26

II Cor. 1:20 – “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “yes” in Christ.

It’s totally appropriate to ask God to give you a promise! When He does, hold on to it!!

B. Be _____ in the waiting room – v. 25 says he was “waiting” for the Consolation of Israel – the Messiah. The word translated “waiting” means “to look with the intent to find what you’re looking for – not casually.”

Heb. 12:2 – Jesus was able to endure because He saw the joy set before Him

If we’re going to be faithful in the waiting time, we must keep our eyes on Jesus. And part of faithfulness in the waiting room is to wait _____ God puts us!

I Kings 17:4 – time of famine in Israel; God says to Elijah, “go to Kerith Ravine – I have ordered the ravens to feed you THERE” – are you “there”?

C. Never give up on God’s _____.

We don’t know how long Simeon had been waiting, but we DO know that it had been 400 years since the last prophet had spoken of the coming Messiah – there were 400 silent years between the testaments. Don’t stop looking! When the time is right, the answer will come.

GOD REMINDS US AT CHRISTMAS – “I AM IN CONTROL.”

