

## HOLY EXPECTATIONS...2026

But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change *and* renew their strength *and* power; they shall lift their wings *and* mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint *or* become tired. **Isaiah 40:31 AMPC**

- Expect = waiting for the Lord, looking for, longing for, hoping for the Lord, watching and keeping watch.

But as for me, I will look to the Lord *and* confident in Him I will keep watch; I will wait with hope *and* expectancy for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. **Micah 7:7 AMPC**

- Micah says that his confidence in God will cause him to wait with hope and expectancy for God.
  - Waiting with hopeful expectancy, now that is a great way to start a new year!
  - We can have true expectation of a sustained touch of God's love, authority, power and healing as we look to 2026.
- Expect help from the Word.

<sup>18</sup> But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. <sup>19</sup> The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble. <sup>20</sup> My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. <sup>21</sup> Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. <sup>22</sup> For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body. <sup>23</sup> Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it *flow* the springs of life.

**Proverbs 4:18-23 NASB**

<sup>20</sup> My son, attend to my words; consent *and* submit to my sayings. <sup>21</sup> Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. **Proverbs 4:20-21 AMPC**

- We are to apply ourselves to His Word and have a heart focused on His Words and keep them in the center of our heart.

The entrance *and* unfolding of Your words give light; their unfolding gives understanding (discernment and comprehension) to the simple. **Psalm 118:130 AMPC**

- There is an expectancy that looks for the entrance of His Word and the unfolding of His Word to us.
  - We openly permit the Lord's Word to enter us and give us light (revelation) and the Holy Spirit 'unfolds' His Words to bring us understanding, discernment, and comprehension.

<sup>13</sup>[What, what would have become of me] had I not believed that I would see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living! <sup>14</sup>Wait *and* hope for *and* expect the Lord; be brave *and* of good courage and let your heart be stout *and* enduring. Yes, wait for *and* hope for *and* expect the Lord. **Psalm 27:13-14 AMPC**

- David is thanking God for including him in His plans, and thrilled that he is seeing some of those things to become real in his own life. Promises made and proclamations spoken were being actualized in David's life, in the here and now!!
  - Two times David exhorts us...wait for, hope for, and expect the Lord.
- **John the Baptists'** followers were filled with expectation based on a promise from God's Word. (**Luke 3:15**)
  - They were in a 'state of expectation' ...not a passing fancy.
  - They were 'on the tip toe of expectation.' – **New English Bible**
  - They were 'waiting in expectation.' – **The NT Transline**
- The beggar in **Acts 3:5** had expectancy in his heart based on a need.
  - God's answer exceeded his expectations.
- Cornelius in **Acts 19:19-48** was full of expectation based on a prophetic encounter.
  - Peter had a 'commissioning' vision or trance. (**v10-23**)
  - Cornelius had a prophetic vision. (**v30-33**)
  - God exceeds Cornelius' expectations. (**v34-45**)
- Every believer is to be filled with the expectation based on an eternal perspective gained from Scripture...(2 **Peter 3:10-15**)
  - The coming of Jesus to die on the cross is history to us.
  - The coming of Jesus to His church in purity and power is our present day expectation.
  - The coming of Jesus for His church is our future expectation.
  - We need all three elements to have a healthy world view and a true eternal perspective.

- Simeon and Anna in **Luke 2:25-38** were filled with expectancy based on a revelation of God's Spirit to their hearts.
  - Simeon was looking expectantly for what God had revealed to him. **(v25-26)**
  - Anna prophesied to everyone who was looking for God's provision for redemption. **(v36-38)**
- Bartimaeus in **Mark 10:46-52** was filled with expectation based on the goodness of God.
  - He hears that Jesus is around and he cried out for mercy. **(v46-49)**
  - Jesus meets the cry of his heart – an expectant cry with a question and an expectant Bartimaeus had an answer. **(v50-52)**
- God is pleased with an expectant heart.
  - Some of us are filled with expectancy concerning God's activity among us. Terrific! Be encouraged.
  - Some of us have been filled with expectancy about God's moving in our life but we lost our edge.
  - What are you looking for? What do you long for God to do for you, for us, for others?
  - We found several reasons for an expectant heart in Scripture today.
    - Based on a promise from God's Word.
    - Based on a need.
    - Based on a prophetic encounter.
    - Based on a well-developed eternal perspective.
    - Based on a revelation from God.
    - Based on the goodness of God
    - Based on being stirred up by way of reminder.

Note: In every instance we viewed in Scripture, expectancy always resulted in the same thing...remarkable change!

- '2026' Occurrences

<sup>26</sup>And at the return of the year, Ben-hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. <sup>27</sup>The Israelites were counted and, all present, went against them. The Israelites encamped before the enemy like two little flocks of lost kids [absolutely everything against them but Almighty God], but the Syrians filled the country. <sup>28</sup>A man of God came and said to the king of Israel, Thus says the Lord: Because the Syrians have said, The Lord is God of the hills but He is not God of the valleys, therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hands, and you shall know *and* recognize by experience that I am the Lord. <sup>29</sup>They encamped opposite

each other seven days. Then the battle was joined; and the Israelites slew of the Syrians 100,000 foot soldiers in one day. <sup>30</sup> But the rest fled to the city of Aphek, and the wall fell upon 27,000 men who were left. Ben-hadad fled into the city *and* from chamber to chamber. **1 Kings 20:26-30 AMPC**

- A new year was bringing a new battle. (v26)
  - Absolutely everything was against them except for Almighty God. (v27)
  - 100,000 enemy soldiers were defeated in one day. (v29)
  - The city wall fell on 27,000 soldiers. (v30)
  - The enemy fled! (v31)

<sup>19</sup>The scribes and the chief priests tried to lay hands on Him that very hour, and they feared the people; for they understood that He spoke this parable against them. <sup>20</sup> So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they *could* deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor. <sup>21</sup> They questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. <sup>22</sup> Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” <sup>23</sup> But He detected their trickery and said to them, <sup>24</sup> “Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” <sup>25</sup> And He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>26</sup> And they were unable to catch Him in a saying in the presence of the people; and being amazed at His answer, they became silent. **Luke 20:19-26 NASB**

- Jesus fought differently with these opponents...His incredible wisdom totally ‘spun’ their heads and silenced the enemy!

<sup>22</sup> ‘You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out. <sup>23</sup> Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them. <sup>24</sup> Hence I have said to you, “You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples. <sup>25</sup> You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean. <sup>26</sup> Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine. **Leviticus 20:22-26 NASB**

- He has set us apart to be holy to Him. (v26)
- He says...”You are Mine.” (v26)

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God’s* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup>for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. **1 Peter 2:9-10 NASB**

- We are:
  - A chosen race.
  - A royal priesthood
  - A holy nation
  - A people for God’s own possession.
  - We have received mercy and the Holy Spirit, and we are now the people of God.
  - We can have substantial expectation of the Lord to bring us further in seeing these truths more fully manifested in our lives...