

### WoW Nation

#### **Timing is Everything**

##### Scripture:

*“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.’” (Luke 2:25-35 NIV)*

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” (Hab. 2:2-3 KJV) In a sense, this viewpoint on visions is also applicable to dreams, promises and covenants made between God and His people. The attached chart ([Promises Made & Promises Kept](#)) includes some of the more prominent biblical stories which support this theory. For example, Abraham's son, Isaac, was born as the result of a promise which God made to Abraham and Sarah when they were in their golden years (Gen. 18:7-17, Gen. 21:1-7). And God took that blessing a step further when He made a covenant, a binding agreement, with Abraham wherein He promised his friend that his descendants would outnumber the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. God also promised Abraham that through his offspring every nation on earth would be blessed because of his obedience to God (Gen. 22:12-18). From Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to King David to King Jesus and beyond, God has remained true to His word. Collectively, the descendants of Abraham have been fruitful and prosperous all over the world. To this day, we still benefit from the covenant which God made with Abraham all those years ago. That's the power of being in a covenant relationship with God. His promises endure forever.

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In much the same way that God keeps promises and covenants with His people, He also brings to fruition dreams and visions that He gives to those who love Him. In Genesis 37, Joseph dreamed that he would be great and that his brothers would humble themselves before him (Gen. 37:1-11). After a number of years and a series of trials and setbacks which turned out to be tests and set-ups orchestrated by God, Joseph's dream came to fruition. His brothers did indeed humble themselves before him when they came to Egypt seeking relief from the famine in Canaan (Gen. 45:1-28). And as pharaoh's second in command, Joseph was more than willing and able to provide for his father and family when they arrived in Egypt. There again, we see the beauty and benefit of serving a God who is faithful, a God who cannot lie (Num. 23:19). When He makes a promise or gives one of His children a dream, in due season, it will come to pass.

Perhaps one of the longest time lapses between a promise from God and its fulfillment involved the covenant which God made with Abram (Abraham's former name). In Genesis, God prophesied to Abraham that his descendants would be strangers in a country not their own and they would be enslaved and mistreated for 400 years. Then after their enslavement, they would come out with great possessions (Gen. 15:13-14). Approximately 200 years after God made the prophecy and covenant, Abraham's grandson, Jacob, and his family settled in Egypt where the Children of Israel remained until the Exodus some 400+ years later. That's another benefit of being in a covenant relationship with God. Because He exists outside of time, He's able to keep covenants across multiple generations of families and/or communities.

King David is yet another person of faith who experienced a considerable delay between the time he received a promise from God and its fulfillment. In the first book of Samuel, David was anointed king by the prophet while he was tending his father's sheep (I Sam. 16:1-13). Yet it took eight years for the promise to be fulfilled and even then it was only partially fulfilled. Initially, David was appointed King over the Tribe of Judah. He had to wait another seven years to become king over the united kingdom of Israel and Judah. Through it all, however, God proved Himself faithful and His word true as David became Israel's greatest king.

As He did with Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, the Children of Israel, David and countless others, God once again proved Himself a promise keeper by honoring the commitment that He made to Simeon in the theme scripture for this study. In Luke chapter 2, it's revealed that Simeon, a righteous and devout man, had been assured by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until after he'd seen the Messiah. True to His word, the Holy Spirit led Simeon to the temple on the very day that Mary and Joseph brought the Baby Jesus there to be dedicated back to God. In a sequence of events that only could have been arranged by God, not only did Simeon get to see the Messiah but he was allowed to perform the dedication. Imagine that. Simeon just wanted to see Christ before he met his death. But because God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we can ask or think, Simeon was allowed to see and hold the Messiah, to

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pray for Him and to speak a word of encouragement to His parents (v. 27-35). Nobody but God could deliver in such a big way.

As all of these stories prove, God is not slack concerning His promises (II Pet. 3:9). Whatever He's promised, He will perform. Sometimes it may take longer than you or I might like for things to manifest, but God's word will never return void. It will accomplish the purpose for which He sent it (Isa. 55:11). If you're waiting expectantly for a God-given vision, promise or dream to come true, keep patiently waiting. Often times, the process takes longer than you or I might like because God is preparing us for the blessings. Other times, God is preparing the blessings for us. Either way, trust God's timing. It's always perfect. God knows exactly what you need and He knows when you need it. So, rest in your knowledge of Him. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him (Psa. 37:7 NIV). For not only will He deliver, He'll exceed your expectations just as He did for Simeon.

While you're waiting for your season of endless blessings and miracles, exercise your faith. It's not enough to believe God for a bountiful harvest. You also have to put your faith into action. You have to do your part to prepare for a bumper crop. So, worship, witness and work while you're waiting for your blessings. Worship—shower God with the gift of your adoration and praise. Witness—share your story with others who need to hear it. And work because faith without works is dead (James 2:26).

It's been said that patience is a virtue that carries a lot of "wait". So regardless of how long you've been waiting, know that God has not forgotten about you. In fact, He's as excited to deliver your blessings as you are to receive them. Nevertheless, let patience have her perfect work, so that you'll be fully equipped and mature enough to handle your season when it arrives (James 1:4). Perhaps author and minister, John Ortberg said it best when he remarked, "Waiting is not just something that we have to do until we get what we want. Waiting is part of the process of becoming what God wants us to be." God wants you to be fruitful and He wants you to be blessed (John 15:16). So worship, witness, work and wait. Then trust God to do the rest.

Be blessed.

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