

A dark, high-angle photograph of a cemetery. The image is filled with numerous gravestones of various shapes and sizes, arranged in rows that recede into the distance. The lighting is very low, creating a somber and eerie atmosphere. The text "Waiting For The Dead" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

Waiting For The Dead

Judges 4:16-21

- “But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left. 17 However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. 18 And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not fear. And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket. 19 Then he said to her, Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty. So she opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him. 20 And he said to her, Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and inquires of you, and says, 'Is there any man here?' you shall say, 'No.' 21 Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.”

Judges 5:28

- “The mother of Sisera looked through the window, And cried out through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarries the clatter of his chariots?”
- She was waiting for the dead, that which would never come.
- Many religious folk are waiting for the dead, anticipating things the Bible says will not come

Modern Jewish Folk Are Still Waiting For The Messiah

- John 4:25-26 - “The woman said to Him, I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things. 26 Jesus said to her, I who speak to you am He.”
- John 5:31-32, 36, 39, 45-47
- John 8:28
- John 20:27-31

Modern Jewish Folk Are Still Waiting For The Messiah

- But they did not and do not want to believe.
 - Acts 28:22-29
- They were looking for a physical kingdom on the earth.
 - Acts 1:6 - “Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”
- A dead hope

Modern Jewish Folk Are Still Waiting For The Messiah

- The kingdom IS!
 - Col. 1:13 - “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”
 - 1Thes. 2:12 - “that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory”
 - Rev. 1:9 - “I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Some Are Waiting For A Second Chance

- Heb. 2:1-3 - “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him”
- 2Cor. 5:9-11 - “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”

Some Are Waiting For A Second Chance

- Hoping to be an exception? God doesn't make exceptions.
 - Rom. 2:7-11
 - Rom. 11:19-22
- The Bible says it; that settles it.
 - Heb. 9:27 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”

Some Wait For Heaven To Act On Their Behalf

- Some wait for converting power to come upon them
 - Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Some Wait For Heaven To Act On Their Behalf

- Some wait for God to turn them from sin toward righteousness.
 - 1Thes. 1:9 - “For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”
 - Acts 2:41 - “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”

Some Wait For Heaven To Act On Their Behalf

- God does not play favorites, turning some and not others.
 - Luke 16:29-31 - “Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

Some Wait For Heaven To Act On Their Behalf

- Some wait for a miraculous gift of faith
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- Some wait for a miraculous call to teach
 - 2Tim. 2:2 - “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
- Waiting for God to come down and make you do what you should do for yourself is waiting for the dead.

Some Wait For A Feeling As Evidence Of Pardon

- 1Peter 1:2 - “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied”
- 1John 2:4-5 - “He who says, I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

Some Wait For The Right Time

- Acts 24:25 - “Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”
- Some wait for a time when living for Jesus will be easy
 - 2Tim. 3:12 - “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

Some Wait For The Right Time

- Some wait for a time when being a Christian will be more fashionable.
 - 2Cor. 6:2 - “For He says: In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

We Are Waiting For The Risen Savior To Come Again

- Are we waiting for the dead?
 - Acts 1:11 - “who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”
 - Luke 12:35-40
- What are you waiting for?