



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 30:11-34:35
- Isaiah 40:31
- Matthew 4:1-3
- 1 Thessalonians 3:5
- Hebrews 2:18; 4:15
- James 1:3-4
- Habakkuk 1:2
- 1 Peter 1:6-7

Title:

FORTY DAYS TOO MANY?

- Delays, Delays, Delays
- Can Yahweh tell time?
- Impatient Options
- Switching to 'other gods'
- A good reason for delays
- When the pressure is on
- Patience's Perfect Work
- A cry for help

Is waiting forty days too many? What is your spiritual MO (mode of operation) when Yahweh does not jump to attention when you need something? Do you throw a tantrum like a five year old? Do you turn to self-reliance? Do you jump out ahead of the Almighty? Might you even turned to 'other gods'? Become equipped to wait on Yahweh's perfect timing.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE (S) THAT INSPIRED MESSAGE :

Exodus 32:1 And the people saw that Moses ***delayed to come down*** from the mountain, and the people gathered themselves to Aaron. And they said to him, Up! Make us gods who shall go before us. For this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.

Exodus 32:21 And Moses said to Aaron, What did this people do to you, that you have brought so great a sin upon them? And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on mischief. For they said to me, Make us ***gods who shall go before us***. For this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him. And I said to them, Whoever has any gold, let them break it off. And they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and there came out this calf.

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) DERIVED FROM TODAY'S PORTION

*Isaiah 40:31 **but they who wait for the LORD** shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

Matthew 4:1-3 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after ***fasting forty days and forty nights***, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him

1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

Hebrews 2:18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This week's Torah Portion begins with the Lord asking Moses to take a census of the people of Israel.
2. For each person who took the census over the age of twenty years of age, they would need to pay a ***ransom***.

3. The ransom to be paid was a half shekel of silver.
4. The rich were not asked to give more nor were the poor asked to give less, everyone was asked to pay the same.
5. The ransom to be paid was to be used for the upkeep of the Tabernacle-- Exodus 30:16 You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before the LORD, so as to make atonement for your lives."
6. Yahweh continued providing instructions to Moses as to how to set up and how to handle the affairs of the "Tent of Meeting".
7. Moses had gone away to speak to the LORD, but in the minds of the people he had taken too long to handle matters with Yahweh.

YAHWEH IS NEVER LATE; HE IS NEVER EARLY; HE IS ALWAYS ON TIME!

1. **Maybe Yahweh Can't Tell Time**

A. **What's with all this delay?**

- (1) Exodus 32:1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain.
- (2) When did God say how long He would take to talk with Moses?

- (a) Further and beyond, did God owe anyone an explanation as to how long He could take handling matters with Moses?

B. Are you impatient with Yahweh

- (1) Is that not how we are at times with God?
 - (a) We believe that He is carrying on too long to perform a task we believe He should have completed by a predetermined date, usually the one we will set?
- (2) Do you do really dumb things when you've convinced yourself that Yahweh must have made an error?
 - (a) Exodus 32:1 (b) the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, ***make us gods*** who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."
 - (b) We obviously won't be speaking to Aaron to "***make us gods*** who shall go before us". But how often will we make gods out of something else because we have lost faith in Yahweh delivering.
 - (c) Not recognizing there is always the possibility of Him keeping that which we think we want from us, in order to keep us from hurting ourselves and others in the process.

C. Flip the Script

- (1) What if we flip the script and instead of being the impatient Israelites we would play the role of Aaron?
 - (a) Seemingly Aaron was on board with the manufacturing of the idolatrous golden calf.
 - (b) Aaron should have been the voice of reason to keep the people focused on Yahweh.
 - (c) He would have done a great service for God's Kingdom if he were to have turned the conversation around instead of folding under pressure.

WHEN IN DOUBT—REMIND YOURSELF WHO'S IN CONTROL.

2. The Testing of our Faith

A. Whenever we believe that God's timetable does not match ours, we need to remind ourselves who is in control.

- (1) If our lack of patience is an issue, we should remind ourselves of James 1:3-4 "Knowing that the testing of our faith produces patience but let patience have its' perfect work that you may become complete and lacking nothing."
 - (a) Suffice it to say, God is not in the business of making "softies". His ultimate goal is to develop Spiritual giants

capable of withstanding the worst storms without wavering!

B. Unlike the children of Israel, when Yahweh seems to not be there, or seems unresponsive we are to remind ourselves of Habbakuk.

(1) Habbakuk 1:2 O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and ***you will not hear?***

(a) You are not alone-- Everyone deals with this thoughts.

But the enemy wants you to think otherwise.

(b) Not knowing the timing does not mean it's long term--

Everyone would love to know what tomorrow holds.

That in itself is where the crux of the matter lies, we

would love to have the mind of God. 1 Peter 1:6 In this

you rejoice, **though now for a little while**, if necessary,

you have been grieved by various trials,

(c) *It has a purpose--* It proves the genuineness of our faith!

1 Peter 1:7 so that the ***tested genuineness of your faith***

—more precious than gold that perishes though it is

tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and

glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

(d) Contrary to how might seem--He is listening- While it

might seem that God is not listening, Keep asking, Keep

Knocking, Keep seeking!

Questions & Discussion

1. What causes fear in you in waiting for the Lord? Is it not knowing what is going to happen? Or is the waiting itself the problem?
2. How do you react when God is seemingly delayed, do you take matters in your own hand like the children of Israel did?
3. Have you (maybe not knowingly) formed idols in the process?
4. Having Yahweh reveal tonight maybe there are some idols in your life that need to be destroyed, will you?