

355

SLEEPS UNTIL  
CHRISTMAS!





# THE WAITING ROOM



**Looking for The Lord in the 'in-between'**





# THE WAITING ROOM

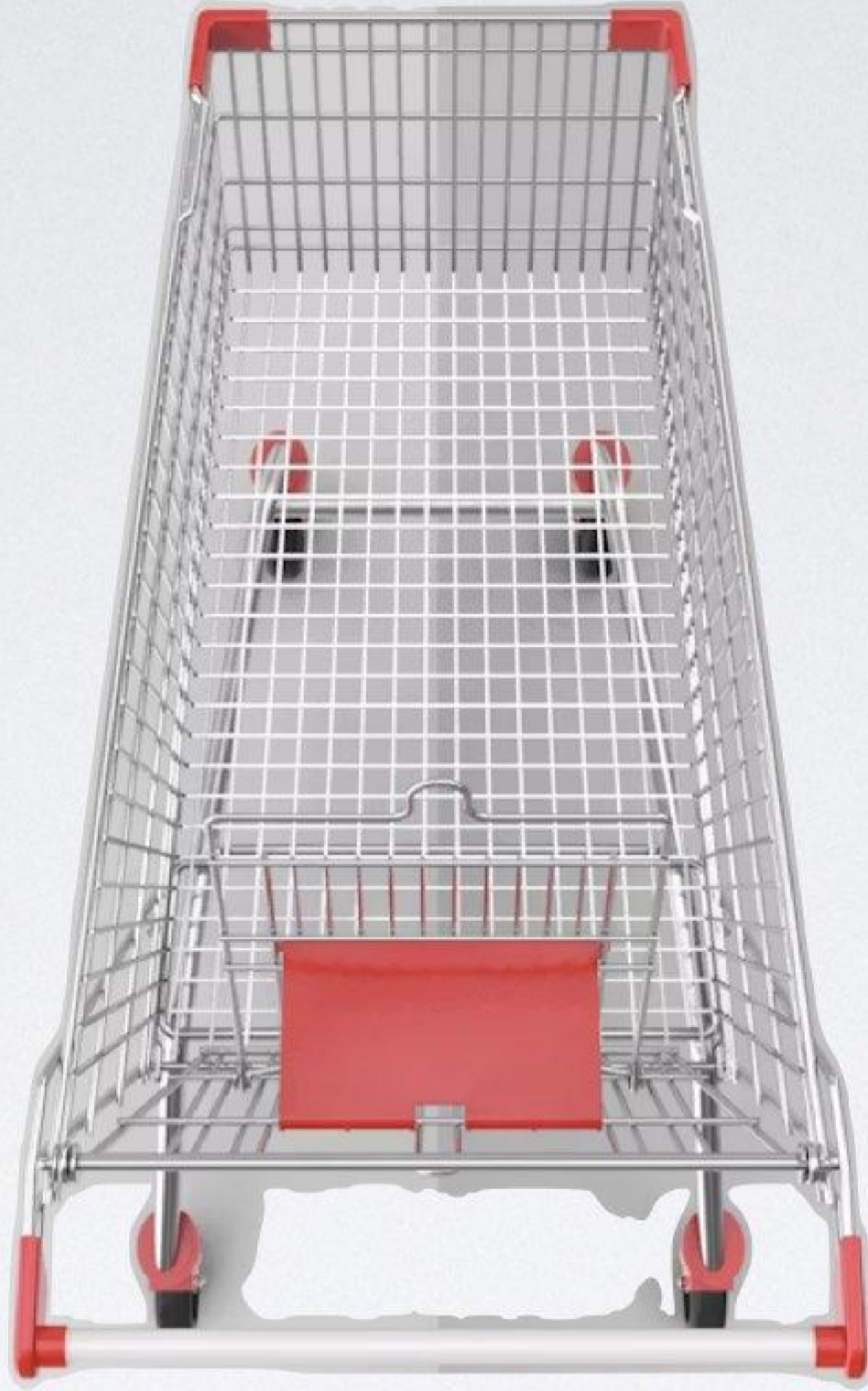
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OH WHY ARE WE WAITING?

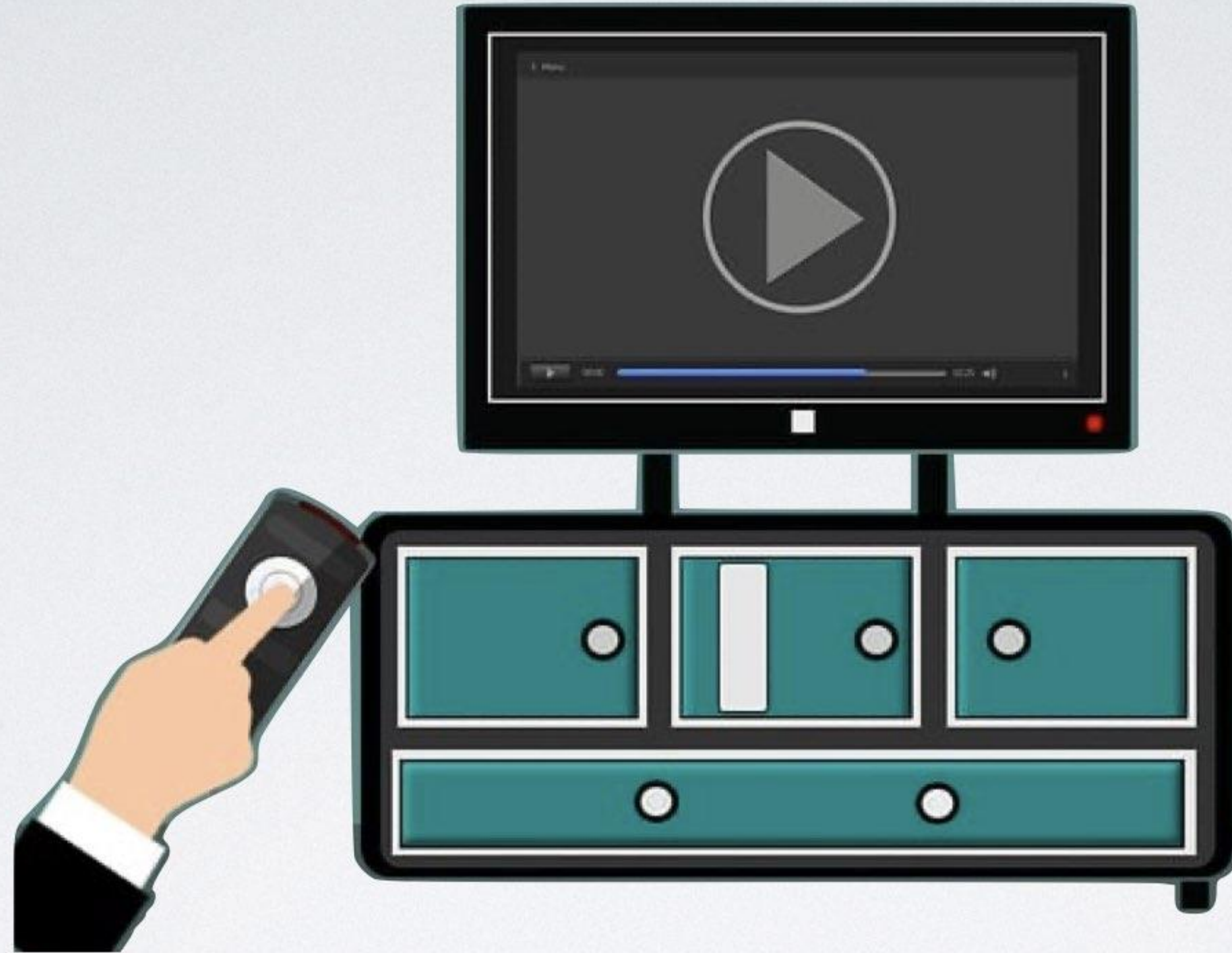




# SKIPPING THE LINE

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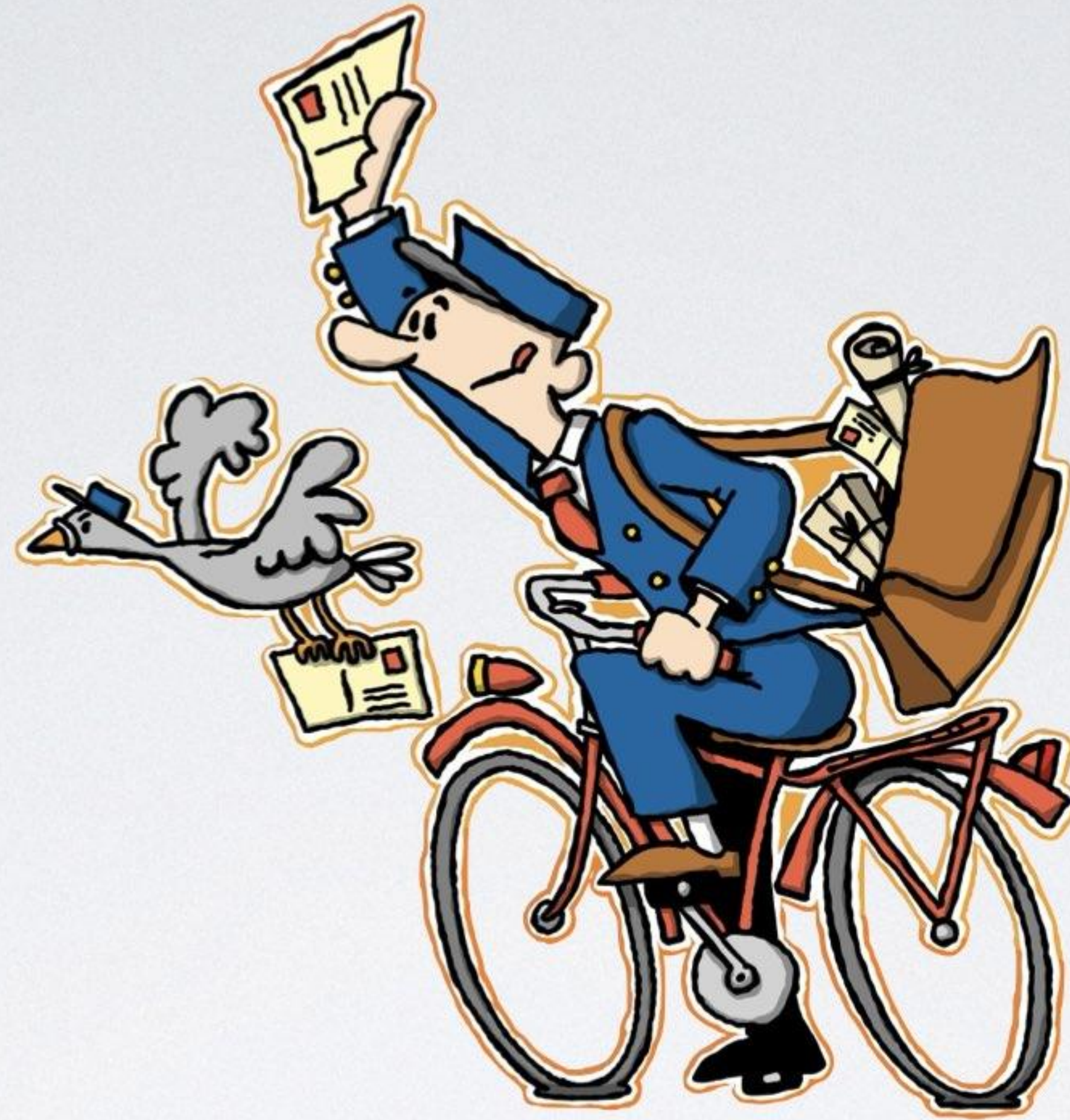




# NOW TV!

[pixabay.com/illustrations/television-remote-live-stream-hand-4069510/](https://pixabay.com/illustrations/television-remote-live-stream-hand-4069510/)





I WANT IT ALL... AND I WANT IT NOW!

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HAVE WE, IN OUR SOCIETY, LOST THE  
ABILITY WAIT, AND THE VALUE OF  
DOING SO?



# WAIT A MINUTE

- We don't like to just sit and 'be' in the waiting room, or in the queue, or at the bus stop, or whilst we're out walking
- We struggle to even have patience to wait for the next episode of our favourite shows!
- Perhaps we might need to take away some of our 'creature comforts' and adjust our expectations in order to know the value to wait



DOES THE LORD, IN HIS WISDOM,  
SOMETIMES CAUSE/ALLOW US TO ENDURE  
SITUATIONS REQUIRING PATIENCE?



19 I remember my affliction and my  
wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

20 I well remember them,  
and my soul is downcast within me.



21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore  
I have hope:

22 Because of the Lord's great love we  
are not consumed, for his compassions  
never fail.



23 They are new every morning; great  
is your faithfulness.

24 I say to myself, “The Lord is my  
portion; therefore I will wait for him.”



25 The Lord is good to those whose  
hope is in him, to the one who seeks  
him;

26 it is good to wait quietly for the  
salvation of the Lord.



# LAMENTATIONS

- Possibly written by the prophet Jeremiah (sometimes dubbed 'The Weeping Prophet') but possibly a collaboration of poets
- If the author was Jeremiah, he warned about, lived through and spoken into the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem and the exile
- Jeremiah's stark book is punctuated with the promises and faithfulness of God and ends with a glimmer of hope of future salvation



# LAMENTATIONS

- Lamentations is a pain-filled, raw and honest set of poetic 'laments' in reflection of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem
- The response is genuine grief and a recognition of the need to repent and turn back to God
- In the midst of this pain and confusion we find an expression of faith and hope - God is still faithful and His salvation is worth the wait!



THE SALVATION OF THE LORD IS THE  
SOLUTION TO THE ALL PROBLEMS AND  
THE PAIN WE FACE



**“IT IS GOOD TO WAIT QUIETLY FOR  
THE SALVATION OF THE LORD”**

(LAMENTATIONS 3:26)



# IT IS GOOD (FOR US)

- We may be tempted to find our own solutions and force the issue when we are faced with problems and pain but the salvation of the Lord is always our best solution
- The right answer is always Jesus!
- Jesus was the answer for the exiled Israelites (their coming Messiah) then and He is still the answer for us today (Coming King)



# TO WAIT QUIETLY

- To wait quietly is not to be ignorant of, passive to, or compliant with pain, injustice or sin
- To wait on God is to seek Him, to draw near to Him and to trust Him in the waiting
- This means to seek the salvation and the solutions and timing that He ordains in His wisdom and sovereignty - to wait in trust and hope



GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS -  
JUST NOT ALWAYS IN THE WAY OR  
TIMEFRAME THAT WE WANT HIM TO!



# GOD WAITERS - EXHIBIT A





# GOD WAITERS - EXHIBIT A: GENESIS 37-50

- There was a very long time between Joseph's prophetic dream and its fulfilment - ending in a story of God's faithful salvation
- Whatever the plans of the enemy or the people in the story may have been - God had a bigger agenda and His will prevailed
- Joseph remained faithful, patient and obedient to the Lord and His ways and it resulted in the salvation of the people of God



# GOD WAITERS - EXHIBIT B





# GOD WAITERS - EXHIBIT B: ACTS 1-2

- Before His ascension Jesus told His followers to 'tarry' in Jerusalem for the promised baptism of Holy Spirit (whilst they debated politics!)
- They had seemingly learnt enough by then to follow the Lord's 'waiting room' instruction in the midst of their questions and uncertainty
- God was faithful to His promise, the power of God was poured out, the church was founded and people are still being baptised today!



The term "tarry" in the Bible generally means to delay, linger, or wait. It is often used in contexts where individuals are instructed to remain in a place or situation until a specific time or event occurs. The concept of tarrying is significant in both the Old and New Testaments, reflecting themes of patience, obedience, and divine timing.



WE ARE NOT CURRENTLY UNDER MILITARY  
SIEGE, FORCIBLY EXILED IN BABYLON, BEING  
UNJUSTLY HELD IN AN EGYPTIAN PRISON OR  
BEING SUPPRESSED UNDER AN OPPRESSIVE  
FIRST CENTURY ROMAN OCCUPATION...

IF WE WERE - OUR BEST CHOICE WOULD BE  
TO WAIT FOR THE LORD



WE ARE CURRENTLY LIVING IN AN  
INCREASINGLY IMMORAL AND GODLESS  
CULTURE, AWAITING NEW BUILDING  
BREAKTHROUGH, SEEKING TO MAKE SOME  
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AND FACING SOME  
PERSONAL PAIN AND CHALLENGES...

OUR BEST CHOICE IS TO WAIT FOR THE LORD



I I 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'





# THE WAITING ROOM

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WHILST IN THE WAITING ROOM WE CAN  
STILL SEEK THE HEART, PRESENCE AND  
WILL OF THE LORD - NO-ONE AND NO-  
THING CAN STOP US BEING WITH AND  
GROWING IN HIM IF WE DON'T LET THEM!



25 “To whom will you compare me?  
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy  
One.

26 Lift up your eyes and look to the  
heavens: Who created all these?



26b He who brings out the starry host  
one by one and calls forth each of  
them by name.

Because of his great power and mighty  
strength, not one of them is missing.



27 Why do you complain, Jacob?  
Why do you say, Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord;  
my cause is disregarded by my  
God”?



28 Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God, the  
Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary, and  
his understanding no one can fathom.



29 He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the  
weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;



31 but those who hope in (wait upon)  
the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

THE SALVATION OF THE LORD IS COMING!