

## ANTICIPATION

**Scripture:** Psalm 96

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Psalm 96 is only 13 verses long. It only takes 1 min. to read it. Go ahead and take that minute to read each verse out loud. Give full voice to the exclamation points. WOW! A lot of things are happening here: praising, singing, exalting, worshipping, declaring, rejoicing. But, amidst all these actions I experience joy as I read this Psalm. Verse 12 says, "sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes...". I also feel a greater sense of anticipation during Advent.

Go back to the 1970's. Carly Simon had a hit song, "ANTICIPATION". Key in on the chorus: an-ti-ci-pation, an-ti-ci-pa-a-tion, is making me wait, keeping me wa-ai-ai-ai-aiting. Now hear the chorus playing in the background of a commercial for Heinz ketchup. "Anticipation" as the thick, rich, delicious ketchup, oh so slowly, travels down the bottle. "An-ti-ci-pa-a-tion" as the ketchup finally drops onto the hamburger.

All of this building up to the slogan, "The taste that's worth the wait." And the look of pure joy when the actor bites into the burger.

That's the joy of waiting. That's how I feel during Advent. The Joy of anticipating the arrival of the Christ child. Each day as we wait we can still move forward toward Christ (Just like the ketchup moves through the bottle). Each day can be filled with a rich appreciation for what God does for us (Just like the rich, delicious ketchup does for the burger). "O taste and see that the Lord is good."(Psalm 34:8). And believe me, the coming of Christ is definitely worth the wait.

**Prayer:** Oh what joy we share as we move closer to you, Lord. What joy we experience as we feel you move closer to us. THANK YOU, GOD! Amen.

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