

ANTICIPATION OF THE MESSIAH

The daily Bible reading program is designed to follow the books of the Bible in chronological order. One thing that is hard about this arrangement is that one does not read the New Testament until October 14. That is a long time to wait for reading about Jesus!

Now think about the Jews as they waited for **hundreds** of years for the Messiah. It took so long that some thought He would not come. Others had the wrong idea of what He would do when He would come, so they did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

The New Testament tells us about His arrival, His life, and His death for our sins. The main fact of the gospel is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The Holy Spirit led the apostles to declare that Jesus was made both Lord and Christ and is ruling in Heaven (**Acts 2:33-36**).

The gospel explains that this fulfilled God's plan that was written in the Old Testament scriptures. All scripture is helpful in building our faith in Jesus as the Christ.

The New Testament also tells us that the Messiah is returning from Heaven to take us with Him to Heaven. We need to be looking with great anticipation for His return. We also need to be living our lives each day as if it is the day He will return (**2 Peter 3:10-14**). We need to tell others who have not obeyed the gospel to do what Peter told the Jews on Pentecost to do to be saved: *repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins* (**Acts 2:37-38**).