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GOD AND THE PIZZA DELIVERY MAN

When I delivered pizzas working at Pizza Hut in Uniontown, Ohio, it was a race against time to get to the customer's house as fast as you could. We live in a world where food delivery is marketed as a fast way to have prepared food brought right to your door. We want it fast and easy, but especially fast!

While you may have your favorite pizza chain's number on speed dial to come to the rescue when dinner is in trouble, God wants us to call upon Him when troubles arrive and promises to offer free delivery. "And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me," Ps. 50:15. What a blessing! When we are in trouble and need help, call upon God and ask for deliverance. Since we

typically expect our food to get here without a minute to lose, it makes sense that we typically want God's answers to get here as fast as possible.

"Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make hast to help me!... You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!" Ps. 70:5. But more often than not, we must wait and nothing we do on our part can speed things up. God offers no 30 minutes or less guarantee. We must wait for Him to deliver us in His time (Eccl. 3:11), and promises that if we have faith to grow in patience, what He brings will be worth the wait! "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," Is. 40:31. Now that

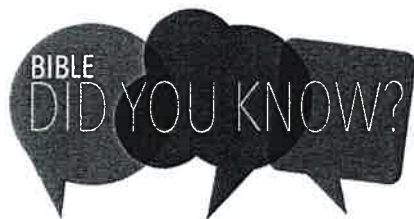
many pizza chains offer online ordering, they often send you an email confirmation that your order is on its way. I often find myself checking my invoice after 20 minutes of waiting has gone by to make sure the pizza is coming. God has a similar confirmation system for us to check while we wait. His is in His Word. "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope," Ps. 130:5. God's word provides many ways of confirming His delivery is on its way through examples of others whose patience paid off waiting for God's deliverance. God's faithfulness can be seen in examples of His deliverance of Joseph, the Israelites, Job and many others and see how despite any lengthy delay, God came through. "As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful," James 5:10-11. It can also strengthen our resolve to develop greater faith as we wait, recognizing how many

great eternal blessings God plans to ultimately deliver to us, that will only arrive after a lengthy period of waiting. We are told to "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ," 1 Cor. 1:7. God's people are to be "waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ," Titus 2:13. We are taught in His Word to serve Him "and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come," 1 Thess. 1:10. We are told to faithfully wait for His appearance knowing He comes "to save those who are eagerly waiting for him," Heb. 9:28. It becomes evident that it is in our best interest to wait for various moments of deliverance from God, as it will teach and train us to build faith and confidence as we wait in the Lord's coming. His eventual arrival will be worth the wait as He will bring a more glorious deliverance from all the pains and troubles of this life. Just remember that as you turn to the confirmation of delivery in God's Word, Jesus is standing at the door of our hearts, pleading with us to let Him in and rule in our

lives. Don't forget to let Him in and answer. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne," Rev. 3:20-21. His word offers us the bread of life and often it is He who is doing the waiting on us. Don't leave Him standing! He delivers the best tasting goodness you'll ever know. "Oh taste, and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" Ps. 34:9 "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh," John 6:48-51. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has

eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever," John 6:53-58.

- Daniel Ruegg



Infant John the Baptist leaped in his mother's womb when Mary greeted Elizabeth. "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy."

Luke 1:41-44

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



NABOTH'S VINEYARD

Using laser technology, an archaeologist has discovered that the Biblical story of Naboth's coveted vineyard is quite probably a factual account describing conditions that did exist at the time. Her findings suggest a slightly different reading of the story, which not all Bible scholars may agree with. Dr. Norma Franklin, one of the heads of the Jezreel Expedition, recently reported on some of the remarkable archaeological discoveries made in the Jezreel Valley. The expedition established that the valley was a major wine producing area in Biblical times. This opens up speculation as to the veracity of the Biblical story of Naboth's vineyard, which was said to have taken place in the Jezreel Valley. The clues to the Biblical connection originally came to light in 2012 when a LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) scan, using pulsed lasers, revealed several features that had remained hidden for centuries. Several wine and olive presses were discovered including the largest ancient winepress in Israel found to date. The survey also revealed over 100 bottle-shaped pits carved into the bedrock. Dr. Franklin theorized that many of these pits were used to store wine. As a result of her findings, Dr. Franklin is convinced that the Biblical story of the conflict between Naboth and King Ahav over a vineyard in the Jezreel Valley could very well have taken place precisely as described. "As an archaeologist, I cannot say that there was definitely a specific man named Naboth who had a particular vineyard," Dr. Franklin told *Breaking Israel News*. "The story is very old but from what I have found, I can say that the story as described in the Bible quite probably could have occurred here in the Jezreel." Despite technological advances in recent years, archaeology still has limitations. Vineyards do not leave behind any lasting signs, so it is impossible to determine the exact site of Naboth's vineyard. A soil analysis by the Kibbutz Yizre'el did discover an area of land with the ideal qualities for growing grapes. Based on the structure of the press, Dr. Franklin suggested the site was established before 300 BCE, a timeframe that would certainly allow for Naboth to be producing wine at that site.

