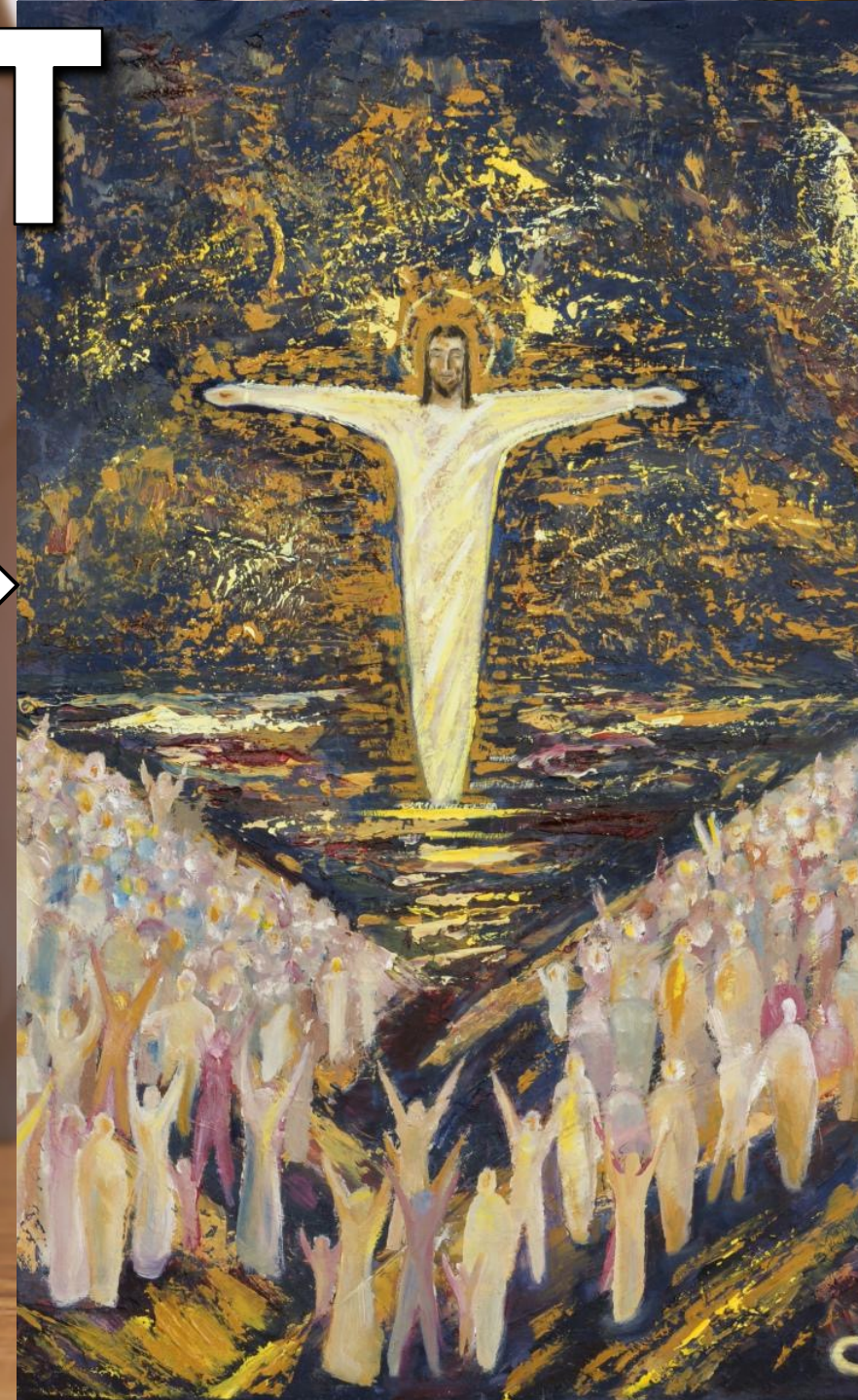




THE MIDDLE

ADVENT



THE MIDDLE

Who you become while you're waiting is as important as what you're waiting for.

JOHN ORTBERG



“Friends, this world is not your home, so don’t make yourselves cozy in it. Don’t indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. **Live an exemplary life in your neighborhood** so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they’ll be won over to God’s side and be there to join in the celebration when He arrives.”

1 Peter 2:11-12 (The Message)



HOPE

“God bound Himself with an **oath**, so that those who received the **promise** could be perfectly sure that He would never change His mind. So God has given both His **promise** and His **oath**. These two things are **unchangeable** because it is **impossible for God to lie**. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have **great confidence** as we hold to the **hope** that lies before us. This **hope** is a **strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls**. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary.”

EXILE



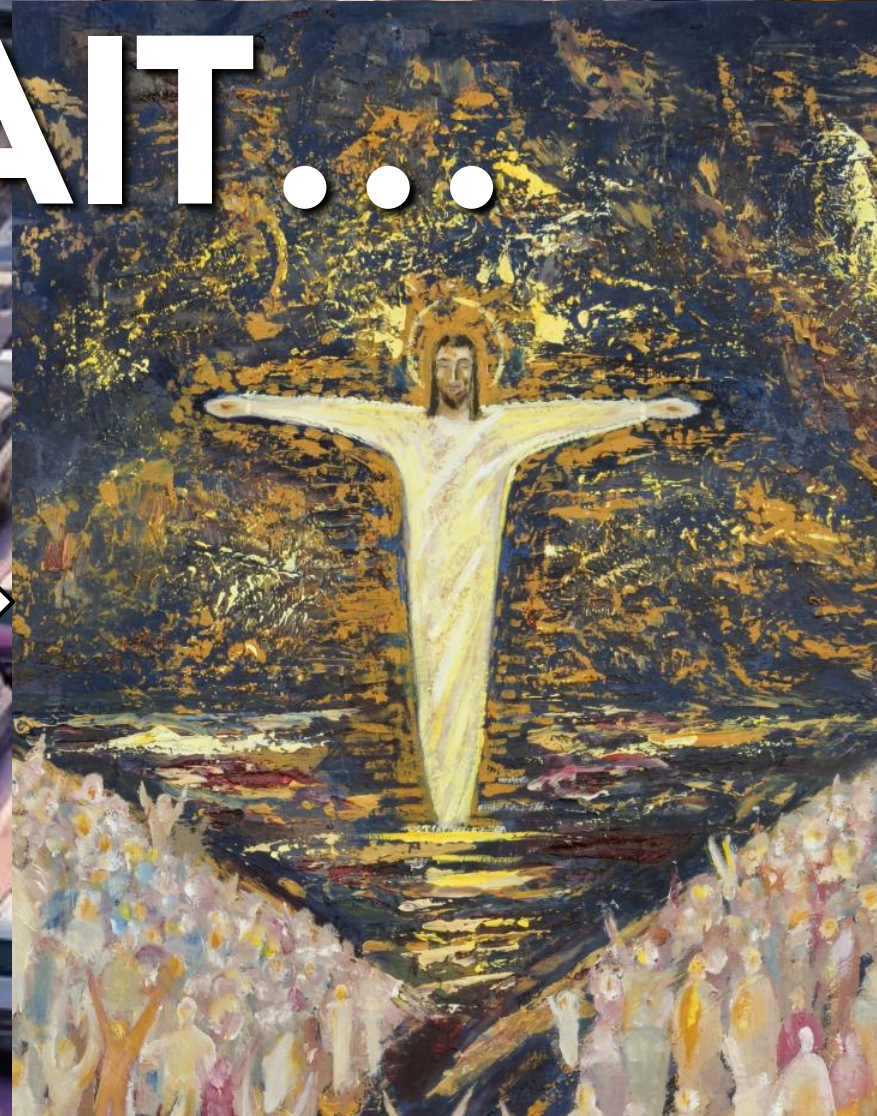
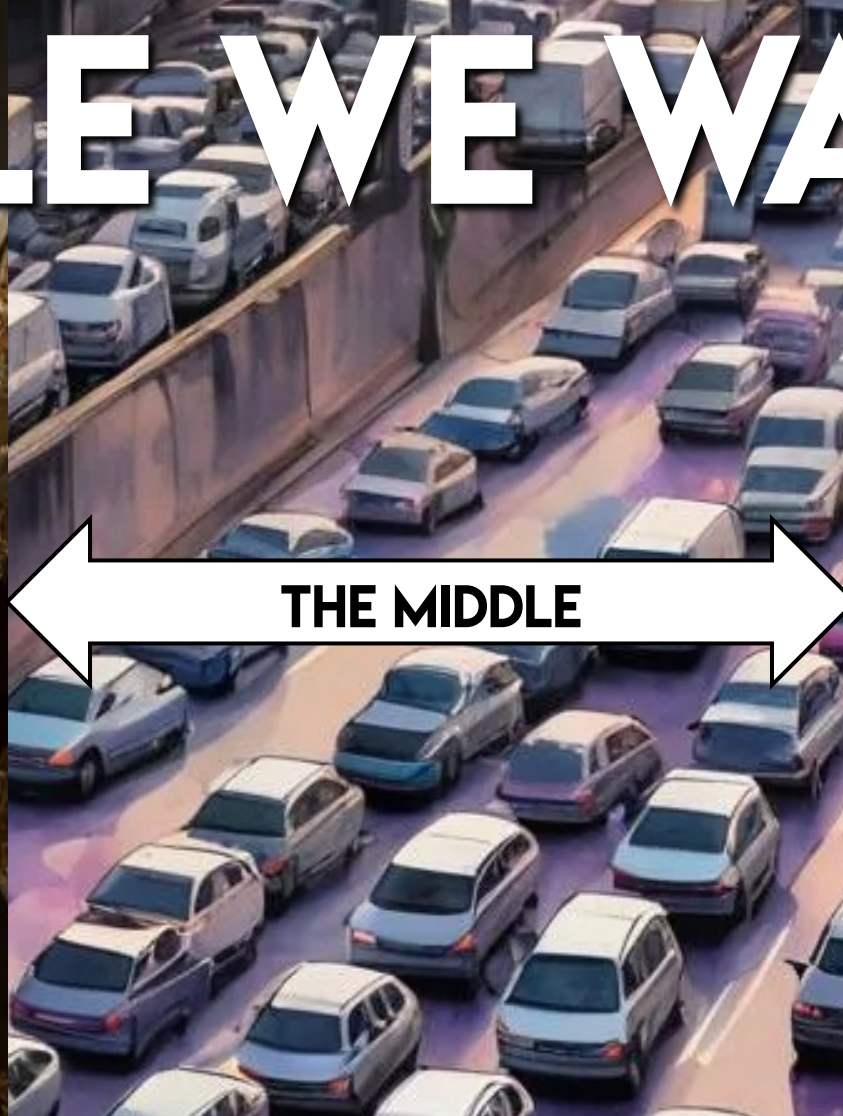
This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives He has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens and eat the food they produce... **Work for the peace and prosperity of the city** where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for **its welfare will determine your welfare.**"

Jeremiah 29:4-7

The day will come, says the Lord, when I will do for Israel and Judah all the **good things I have promised them.** In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. **He will do what is just and right throughout the land.** In that day Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this will be its name: 'The Lord Is Our Righteousness.'

Jeremiah 33:14-16

WHILE WE WAIT...



And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must **continue to follow Him. Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him.** Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.