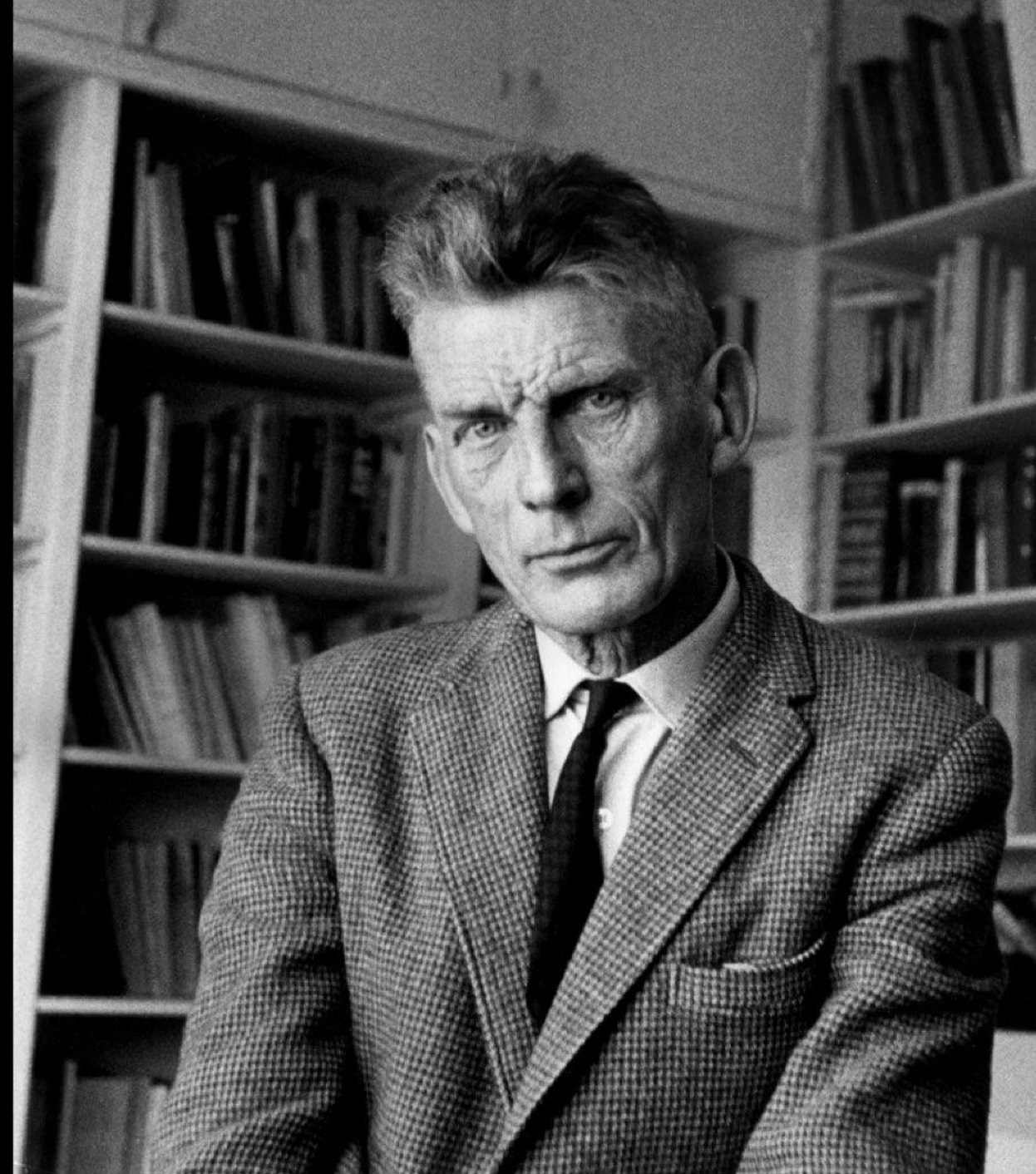


# Prayer and Waiting

The Kingdom of God is both NOW

The Kingdom of God is both NOW

And NOT YET



# WAITING FOR GODOT



Indeed, none who wait for you  
shall be put to shame...  
(Psalm 25:3, ESV)

I am weary with my crying out; my  
throat is parched. My eyes grow  
dim with waiting for my God...  
(Psalm 69:3, ESV)

He told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

(Luke 24:44-45, CSB)

He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

(Luke 24:46-47, CSB)



You are witnesses of these things. And look,  
I am sending you what my Father promised.  
As for you, stay in the city until you are  
empowered from on high.”

(Luke 24:48, CSB)

I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

(Acts 1:1-3, CSB)

I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

(Acts 1:1-2, CSB)

After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

(Acts 1:3, CSB)

While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. "Which," he said, "you have heard me speak about; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days."

(Acts 1:4-5, CSB)

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?”

(Acts 1:6, CSB)

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

(Acts 1:7-8, CSB)

# **Movement:**

Encounter (1:1-5)

Expectation (1:6)

Empowerment (for end of the earth mission)  
is promised (7-8)

Waiting (until Pentecost)



So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?”

(Acts 1:6, CSB)

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

(Romans 8:17-19, NIV)

<sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

(Romans 8:20-22, NIV)

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

(Romans 8:23-25, NIV)

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

(Romans 8:26-27, NIV)

Waiting, an onerous burden for us computerized and technically impatient moderns who live in an age of instant everything, is one of the tough tasks of the church. Our waiting implies that the things which need doing in the world are beyond our ability to accomplish solely by our own effort, our programs and crusades. Some other empowerment is needed, therefore the church waits and prays.

Our waiting and praying also indicate that the gift of the Spirit is never an assured possession of the church. It is a gift, a gift which must be constantly sought anew in prayer.

- Will Willimon

1. Share about a time when you've had to wait on God for something important.

2. How does it affect your perspective on suffering and waiting to know that the Spirit "intercedes for us through wordless groans" when we don't know what to pray?

3. What is the difference between active prayer/waiting and inactivity?

4. How can you incorporate praying for the people of the valley in your prayer life?  
(i.e. driving to work, prayer walking the neighborhood, etc.)