



FAITH matters

December 5, 2023

Waiting

I. Banished

Adam, first of God's Delight,
willingly careless
took and ate.
Naked shame, selfish blame,
Exiled
to sin's pain and dirt,
a long way to Fall.
Shalom a walking shadow
now long forgotten.

II. Malachi

Wringing hands plead,
"Our God does not love us!"
God unmoved,
"Wearisome, repulsive whiners!
Return to me, quit your greedy hoarding.
For surely the day is near,
the dormant Root shall sprout.
I AM is coming.
Watch!"

III. Humiliation

Four hundred years' silence,
Advent rising,

a census, a cattle crib,
a calm
broken with virgin moans.
From limitless power
and holy height,
captive to flesh and time,
Immanuel held in the
bewildered gaze of a father
who never fathered,
as the Word cries
'neath Orion's proud stance,
"*I AM!*"

Hush now infant king,
save your tears for Gethsemane.
Anointed by your mother's kiss,
a birth bestowed with burial spice,
the scent of death on the Word's first breath,
the gauntlet thrown in arms swaddled warm.
History divided.
From infant's cry to cross' last sigh.
Simeon's consolation,
"*I AM here!*"

IV. Consummation

Soon enough those arms stretched wide,
great high priest in bloody crown,
innocence slayed,
a final humiliation exacted.
Hanging head whispers,
"It is finished,"
as mercy rends the curtain.

Final census looms,
nowhere to hide-
don't be caught sleeping!
Take and eat.
Watch and pray.
The bridegroom comes with
all things new!

"**Yes, I AM** coming again,
and soon.

You *must* watch."

Come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Come!

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