

Sermon Outline

Looking Ahead:

Christmas Series: *The Essentials of Christmas*

December 4 "Possessing a Genuine Heart ~ Mary," Luke 1:26-56. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper.

December 11 "Possessing a Right Heart ~ Joseph," Matthew 1:18-25.

Parents will be dedicating their little ones to the Lord.

December 18 "Possessing an Honest Heart ~ The Shepherds," Luke 2:1-20.

December 24 & 25 "The Essential of Christmas: Jesus Christ"

Come to one of three identical services: The 24th at 5:30pm and 7:30pm. The 25th at 10:00am

If you would like to TEXT a prayer request to The Chapel Staff, text the word "prayer" to 269-280-2878.

"The Essentials of Christmas" ~ "Possessing a Prepared Heart"

Luke 1:5-15, 57-58

November 27, 2022

Introduction:

I. God Prepares His People for the Coming of the Messiah with the Promises in His Word.

1 Pet. 1:10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you ...

II. God Prepares His People for the Coming of the Messiah with Signs of His Coming.

A. The sign of the Messiah's virgin birth, Isa. 7.

Isa. 7:11 "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. ¹⁷The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria."

Lk. 1:31-35

Mat. 1:18-23

B. The sign of the Messiah's humble birth.

Mic. 5:2

Lk. 2:11-12

C. The sign of the Messiah's second coming.

Mat. 24 & 25

III. God Prepares His People for the Coming of the Messiah with a Precursor or a Forerunner.

A. Isaiah declares the coming of the forerunner.

Isa.40:3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Jn.1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

B. Malachi declares the coming of the forerunner.

Mal.3:1 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. ² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver...

Mal.4:1 "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. ³ Then you will trample on the wicked ...⁵ "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

C. History declares the coming of the forerunner.

Lk.1:16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Isa.40, Mal.4)

Mat.3:1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"... ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Mat.17:11 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. ¹² But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Jn.1:6-9,15,19-30

D. Application: Do we see that God faithfully prepared His people for the coming of His Son?

Rev.11:3 And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Jn.1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

IV. Conclusion ~ Application: When All the Preparations Have Been Made, What's Next? It's the Execution of Those Preparations. It's the Follow Through, Our Part.

A. God promised to prepare His people for the coming of the Messiah.

B. What does it come down to? Our personal response.

1. What was Zechariah's response? Lk.1:57-80.

2. What is our response?

1st Response: Do I choose to believe or not believe the Word of God?

2nd Response: Have I placed my faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior?

3rd Response: Having placed my faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior, am I living out who I am, a follower of Jesus?

a. Am I pure in heart?

b. Knowing how God has prepared me for the coming of Christ, am I living my life in obedience to His Word, letting my light shine for Christ, making a difference to those around me?

My action plan for this week:

God's Promises of the Coming of the Messiah

1. The offspring of Eve will crush the head of Satan.

Gen.3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

2. Through the seed of Abraham, the whole world will be blessed.

Gen.12:2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; ...³ ... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

3. Out of the tribe of Judah will come the promised ruler of the Lord.

Gen.49:10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

4. The Messiah, born as a child, will come and shine in a time of great gloom, reigning on David's throne forever.

Isa.8:19 When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, ...²² ... they ... see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, ...^{9:1} Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress...⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, ... from that time on and forever.

5. The Messiah will come from the line of Jesse, David's father, and be the Ruler of the world in a day that is very different from ours.

Isa.11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—...³ ... He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;⁴ but with righteousness he will judge ... He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked...⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

6. David acknowledges the Messiah as his Lord.

Ps.110:1 The LORD says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

7. The Messiah will come as the Suffering Servant, being our substitute, bearing the iniquities of sinful man.

Isa.53:3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, ...⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

8. The Messiah will reign as the Righteous Branch.

Jer.23:5 "The days are coming, ...when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

9. The Messiah will come from Bethlehem and rule over Israel.

Mic.5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."...⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God...

10. The Messiah will enter Jerusalem on a donkey and reign, ending all war, proclaiming peace.

Zech.9:9 ... See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, ...He will proclaim peace to the nations...

11. When the Messiah comes, Israel as a nation will place their faith in Him, acknowledging that they "pierced" him.

Zech.12:10 "... They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child..."

12. The Messiah will return to the Mount of Olives at the great battle (The Battle of Armageddon) at the end of time.

Zech.14:2 I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it...³ Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, ...⁴ On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, ...