

LORD PREPARE ME

*A Message of Preparation
and Anticipation*



Luke 1:68-79

68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a horn[a] of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
71 salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
72 to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
79 to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

Zechariah, the forth teller

His prophecy concerning his Savior (1:67-75)

- The birth of Jesus assures the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant (1:67-72)
- The birth of Jesus assures the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant (1:73-75)

His prophecy concerning his son (1:73-75)

- He will prepare the way of the Lord (1:76)
- He will proclaim the words of the Lord (1:77-79)

John the Baptist – Why a Forerunner?

- John is the bridge between what had been and what was about to be. He is the precursor, the forerunner, the opening act, the appointed messenger, carrying the promise that the centuries of waiting and preparing and anticipating were about to come to a great and glorious fulfillment.

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

What are we waiting for?

- JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!
- This Advent season, with whom are you sharing the Good News and your personal story of what Jesus has done for you?

Revelation 22:12

- "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Recognize

Recognize Christ's Model
for Living (Titus 2:11-14)

Prepare

Prepare for Suffering
(Acts 14:22; Matthew
24:11-13)

Pursue

Pursue Faithfulness for
Christ's sake (Matthew
25:1-13)

- HEAR HIM SAY WELL DONE
(Luke 12:42-44)

Similarities in the first and second coming of Jesus:

- **Preceded by a forerunner** – Jesus was preceded by John the Baptist at his first coming [Matt 3:1-4; Matt 11:7-15]. Jesus will be preceded by Elijah at his second coming [Malachi 4:5; Revelation 11:1-12].
- **Heralded by angels** – the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and was accompanied by a multitude of the heavenly host at Jesus's first coming [Luke 2:8-15]. He shall send forth his angels with the sound of a trumpet to gather his elect at his second coming [Matthew 24:29-31; Isaiah 11:11-12].
- **Arrived in Israel** – when Jesus dwelt in Capernaum at his first coming, he fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy in Is 9:1-2 [Matt 4:12-16]. When he returns, he will come to Israel again [Is 9:1-7].
- He went up in the clouds [Acts 1:11] and he will return in the clouds [Matt 24:30].
- **God with us** – when he came the first time he was God with us [Matt 1:23]. When he returns he will be God with us [Is 8:9-10]. Jerusalem will be called, "The LORD is there," [Ezek 48:35].
- **Came to save his people** – Jesus came to save his people [Israel] at his first coming [Matt 1:21; Lk 4:18-21]. He will save Israel at his return [Is 61:1-3; Jer 30:7; Rom 11:25-27].

FIRST COMING AND SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- Christ came to earth as a newborn baby (Luke 2:7).
- Christ came with meekness riding on a donkey (Matthew 21:1-5).
- Christ came to bring peace to the human heart (Ephesians 2:13-19; Romans 5:1).
- When Christ came the first time the government was in the hands of men (Herod the Great, the Romans, etc.)
- Christ was killed by His enemies (Matthew 27:20-25).
- When Christ came the first time He was rejected by the Jewish people (John 1:11). They crucified their Messiah.
- Christ will come to earth as a conquering Warrior (Revelation 19:11-16).
- Christ will come with power riding on a white horse (Revelation 19:11-16).
- Christ will come to bring peace to the entire world (Isaiah 9:6-7; Zechariah 9:10).
- When Christ comes the second time the government will be in His hands upon His shoulders (Isaiah 9:6-7).
- Christ will kill His enemies (2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 19:21).
- When Christ comes the second time He will be received by the Jewish people (Zechariah 12:10-11; Romans 11:25-28; Matthew 23:39).

Come, thou long expected Jesus

1.

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.



Looking Back – Moving
Forward