

PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIG ARRIVAL

Today let's talk about the excitement and praise centering around two special births that accompany the celebration and holiday we call Christmas.

The Jews had been waiting for many years for their Messiah. God had a plan which included another special person to be born. His name was to be John. God's plan was revealed to the Jews through prophets such as Malachi. Malachi 3:1, "See, 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." God was fulfilling prophecy and preparing for the coming of the Messiah.

Jesus' birth in the flesh on this earth was just the beginning of a new phase or era of His existence. He has always existed because He is God. The Old Testament constantly points to His coming. The Gospels point out that He was here, and the rest of the New Testament says He was here and He is coming again.

Ladies, think back upon the time you first heard that you were expecting your first child. Hopefully it was a time of real excitement for you, and not a time of unexpected surprise. You just had to tell someone who was really close to you. Picture these two mothers to be, Mary and Elizabeth, together sharing their excitement? When they compared stories they realized the same angel told Zachariah and Mary about the upcoming births of their sons, and both of their sons were to be the fulfillment of God's prophecy for the coming of the Jew's Messiah. To top it off Mary's child would be the Messiah that had been promised for many years.

Few things can hold a candle to the time your child is born. But even the births of our children cannot hold a candle to the rejoicing that happens on earth and especially in heaven when a person becomes a child of God. Mary was the agent used by God to give a new earthly life to Jesus, but it was Jesus who gave Mary new life for eternity. Mary's joy, when her child was born, was nothing compared to the joy in heaven when she was born again as a child of God.

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