

“Christmas, A Story of Preparation”

Luke 1:15-37

Before God does something great, God does great preparation.

I. God prepared a forerunner for the coming of His Son.

A. An Angel foretold John’s important mission. V15-17

Luke 1:15-17 “*For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. 16 “And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. 17 “It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*

1. John the Baptist had to be the right kind of person. -**Malachi 4:5-6**
2. Believers must also be the right kind people for the next coming of Christ.
 - a. Turning others back to walking with Lord –**v16**
 - b. Turning others back includes family reconciliation -**v17**
3. **Question:** Are we to influence others to turn back to the Lord? Did someone influence you? Yes! -- **Jude 22-23**

II. God prepared a special woman to be His mother.

A. A virgin of a descendant of King David -v26.

Luke 1:26 “*Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ... 30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.*

1. She would be a virgin. **Isaiah 7:14** “*Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.*”
2. Mary would be from the line of King David **v32**.

B. God prepared Mary with the identity of the child v32-33.

Luke 1:32-33 “*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”*

1. He will be Son of the Most High: or *Possessor of Heaven and Earth*
2. He will also be the Son of David: -The royal line came both through Mary (**Luke 3**) and Joseph (**Matthew 1**).

C. God prepared Mary explaining the virgin birth v34-38.

Luke 1:34 *Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 The angel answered and said to her, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.** ...37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.”*

1. Conception would come by the Holy Spirit.
2. He would be the Son of God. -- **Isaiah 9:6**

III. God prepared a godly man for Mary and the child.

Matthew 1:19–21 — “¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man ... ²⁰ ... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” ... ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife,”

A. Joseph set aside his dream to follow God’s dream.

1. He relinquished the perfect marriage ceremony to become the father of the perfect Messiah.

B. **Lesson:** Following God’s command is how every one prepares to enter heaven.

1. Let us practice obedience to Christ in preparation for Heaven. –**Matthew 7:21**

THINK, PRAY and OBEY:

1. Ask God to make you the right person as you await His return.
2. Ask God to help you bring healing in your family.
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