

Are You Prepared?
Luke 1:5-23



In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.



And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.



Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.



And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah,



for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord.



And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.



And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”



And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.



And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”



And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple.



And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Luke 1:5-23



I. The Man, John the Baptist



I. The Man, John the Baptist

- Was prophesied



“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. 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.”

Malachi 4:5-6



“To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. 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.” Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Matthew 17:11-13



“Behold, I send my messenger before your
face, who will prepare your way before you.’
(Malachi 3:1)



Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.



For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 11:11-15



I. The Man, John the Baptist

- Was prophesied
- Was a popular speaker



In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”



Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:1-6



I. The Man, John the Baptist

- Was prophesied
- Was a popular speaker
- Power in his preaching



I. The Man, John the Baptist

- Was prophesied
- Was a popular speaker
- Power in his preaching
- Steadfast in his preaching



17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals.

1 Kings 18:17-18





I. The Man, John the Baptist

- Was prophesied
- Was a popular speaker
- Power in his preaching
- Steadfast in his preaching





I. The Man, John the Baptist

II. The Ministry and message



And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Luke 1:16-17



Ministry and message

1. "The kingdom of heaven is at hand!"



Ministry and message

1. "The kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
2. "God's wrath is coming!"



Ministry and message

1. "The kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
2. "God's wrath is coming!"
3. "Repent!" Turn to Jesus!



Application



Application

2. Is your heart prepared for His 2nd Advent?



- He IS returning



And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:3



- He IS returning
- No one knows when he's coming back



“But concerning that day and hour no one knows,
not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the
Father only.”

Matthew 24:36



- He IS returning
- No one knows when he's coming back
- Jesus is waiting for a reason



But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:8-9



- He IS returning
 - No one knows when he's coming back
 - Jesus is waiting for a reason
- He wishes none would perish



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 - He wishes none would perish
- Be wise and faithful servants



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- No one knows when he's coming back
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- Be wise and faithful servants
- Be John the Baptists- prepare hearts



Application

2. Is your heart prepared for His 2nd Advent?



Application

2. Is your heart prepared for His 2nd Advent?

1. Is your heart prepared for His 1st Advent?



Celebrate that he came.



Celebrate that he came.

Celebrate what he came for.



Celebrate that he came.

Celebrate what he came for.

Remembering



“For the Son of Man came
to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10

