

# ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Christmas time, which actually begins at Thanksgiving as far as most stores are concerned, includes a lot of frantic planning, shopping, buying and sometimes even a lot of traveling. One of the questions that you often hear around Christmas time is, "Are you ready for Christmas? Do you have all your shopping done? Are you prepared for Christmas? Usually the answer is "no."

God was prepared for Christmas, well prepared, and He has prepared for your Christmas!



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## GOD'S PREPARATION FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS

**T**hroughout the Old Testament the Jews looked forward to the coming of a Messiah, a Saviour. The Saviour, Redeemer, was revealed through their Levitical sacrifices, their feasts and their holy days. Extensive preparation was made by the Lord so that there would be no doubt as to whom the Saviour was. The very first promise of salvation in the Bible had emphasis on the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is given in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and HER SEED: it shall bruise thy head, and THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL."

The "Seed of the woman" is the first promise of God's preparation for your Christmas. God not only prepared the "Seed of the woman," the Lord Jesus Christ, but He also prepared a nation, and that nation was Israel. In Genesis 12:1-3 it says, "Now the Lord said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: AND I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS THEE, and make thy name great: AND THOU SHALT BE A BLESSING: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: AND IN THEE SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED." So, God not only prepared the Seed of the woman, but also the nation from which He would come.

He also prepared a kingdom and a king. The new nation became large, and God chose a king for this nation by the name of David. God said that this kingdom, and David His king, would last forever. This is found in 2 Samuel 7:16, "And thine house and THY KINGDOM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER BEFORE THEE: THY THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER."

God also prepared a specific city. David was born in Bethlehem and we are told that our Saviour, the Seed of the woman, would be born there also. Micah 5:2 says, "But

thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, YET OUT OF THEE SHALL HE COME FORTH UNTO ME THAT IS TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

God also prepared a woman, Mary, the mother of the HUMANITY of the Lord Jesus Christ, so there would be no mistaking Him. He is the Seed of the woman, and she is the woman of the seed, the humanity of Christ. Isaiah 7:14 says, "Therefore THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN: BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL." In Luke 1:35 it says, "And the angel answered and said unto her, THE HOLY SPIRIT SHALL COME UPON THEE, AND THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST SHALL OVERSHADOW THEE: THEREFORE ALSO THAT HOLY THING WHICH SHALL BE BORN OF THEE SHALL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD."

God also prepared a body for our Saviour. This is brought out in Hebrews 10:5, "Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not. BUT A BODY HAST THOU PREPARED ME." The body of the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ through the virgin birth was prepared by God so that you can understand the full meaning of Christmas. MARY WAS TOLD OF THE PREPARATION OF THIS BODY, Luke 1:35.

Mary was also reminded of the preparation of the body of Christ. This is found in Luke 1:37, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." As a result, Mary responded to the Word of God in Luke 1:38, "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord: BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD. And the angel departed from her." Luke 1:47, "And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." **She recognized Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour.** Luke 1:48 says,

“FOR HE HATH REGARDED THE LOW ES-TATE OF HIS HANDMAIDEN: FOR, BE-HOLD, FROM HENCEFORTH ALL GEN-ERATIONS SHALL CALL ME BLESSED.”

She recognized the GRACE principle, her low estate, and His highly exalted state, as Saviour, as God, as King of kings and Lord of lords. Mary’s body, soul and spirit, in these passages, magnified Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour.

God also, in His GRACES, prepared a man to take care of His Son while He was growing up. That man was Joseph and this is found in Matthew 1:18-25.

Verse 18, “Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”

Verse 19, “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make a public example, was minded to put her away privately.”

Verse 20, “But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

Verse 21, “And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His Name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.”

Verse 22, “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,” (Isaiah 7:14)

Verse 23, “Behold a virgin shall be with Child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us,”

Verse 24, “Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.”

Verse 25: “And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn Son: and he called His Name Jesus.”

Joseph and Mary both responded to the Word of God, and did the will of God for their lives in this preparation for Christmas.

God also prepared a Name for Christ-mas. Isaiah 7:14 says, “And shall call His Name Immanuel.” Matthew 1:23 says, “And they shall call His Name Emmanuel.” Immanuel or Emmanuel, both in the Hebrew language of the Old Testament, and the Greek language of the New Testament, mean literally, “God with us,” therefore, emphasizing the uniqueness of our Saviour, the God-man.

God also prepared a specific birthplace. Mary lived in Nazareth, so they journeyed to Bethlehem. This is found in Luke 2.

Verse 1, “And it came to pass, in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.”

Verse 3, “And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.”

Verse 4, “And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David).”

Verse 5, “To be taxed with Mary his es-poused wife, being great with child.”

Verse 6, “And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she would be delivered.”

Verse 7, “And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Verse 10, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

Verse 11, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

God prepared for your Christmas. Are you prepared?? He prepared a nation. He prepared a kingdom and a king. He prepared a city. He prepared a woman. He prepared the body of Christ. He prepared Joseph to take care of Him while He grew up. He prepared a Name so that we can’t miss it. He

prepared a birthplace. And “In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman...” Galatians 4:4.

If you are not prepared for Christmas, remember God was. He had you in mind when He made all of these preparations for you. If you were the only person in the world, Christ would have gone to the cross and died for you. **Won't you accept Jesus Christ as**

**your personal Saviour and really say “Merry Christmas?”** I am so glad that God prepared this Christmas for me.

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