

FOREFOLDED
& FULFILLED

*PREPARE
THE WAY*

ISAIAH & THE ADVENT OF
CHRIST

FORFOLD & FULFILLED

The promise of *comfort, and preparation*

The promise of *God's own presence among His people*

The promise of *rejoicing*

The promise of *God's anointed one*

The promise of *blessing extended to all nations*

ISAIAH & THE ADVENT OF
CHRIST

Believers Can Wait on God Boldly

Numbers 23:19

¹⁹ God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Believers Can Wait on God Boldly

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

God's Promises & Our Faith

Meditating on God's promises encourages us:

1. to **persevere** through trials and endure persecution.
2. by **reviving** our faith in desert seasons;
renewing our spirit and **restoring** the joy of God's salvation.
3. to **seek the Spirit's** empowerment to live daily as Jesus would.

God's Promise Foretold

Comfort for God's People | Isaiah 40:1-2

¹ Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

God's Promise Foretold

Comfort for God's People | Isaiah 40:1-2

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

God's Promise Foretold

Preparation for the Lord's Arrival | Isaiah 40:3-5

³ A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

God's Promise Foretold

Preparation for the Lord's Arrival | Isaiah 40:3-5

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

God's Promise Foretold

Preparation for the Lord's Arrival | Isaiah 40:3-5

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

God's Promise Fulfilled

John's Pre-Natal Ministry | Luke 1

Zechariah and Elizabeth were:

- descendants of Aaron (Lk. 1:5)
- righteous in the sight of God (Lk. 1:6)
- observant of all the Law of Moses (Lk. 1:6)

- advanced in years (Lk. 1:7)
- and childless (Lk. 1:7)

God's Promise Fulfilled

John's Pre-Natal Ministry | Luke 1

¹⁶ He will **bring back** many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will **go on before** the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, **to turn the hearts** of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—**to make ready** a people prepared for the Lord.”

God's Promise Fulfilled

John's Pre-Natal Ministry | Luke 1

⁴⁵ “Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

God's Promise Fulfilled

John's Ministry at Birth | Luke 1

⁶⁵All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

God's Promise Fulfilled

Zechariah's Song | Luke 1:67-80

Zechariah Blesses God for:

- coming to **redeem** His people
- for raising up the horn of **salvation**
- for showing **mercy** and **faithfulness**
- for **rescuing** his people from their enemy and enabling them to serve him **without fear**, in **holiness** and **righteousness**, all their days.

God's Promise Fulfilled

Zechariah's Song | Luke 1:67-80

John was a Prophet of Preparation.

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,

God's Promise Fulfilled

Zechariah's Song | Luke 1:67-80

Preaching Salvation through Forgiveness of Sins

⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

God's Promise Fulfilled

Zechariah's Song | Luke 1:67-80

Preaching Salvation through Forgiveness of Sins

“Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth. (Lk. 3:4-6)

God's Promise Fulfilled

Zechariah's Song | Luke 1:67-80

Preaching Salvation through Forgiveness of Sins

True repentance involves not only turning away from our sin, but also turning toward God. John taught the people coming to be baptized what that meant for them *practically*.

God's Promise Fulfilled

Zechariah's Song | Luke 1:67-80

God's Tender Mercy Comes to Comfort

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

God's Promise Fulfilled

Zechariah's Song | Luke 1:67-80

God's Tender Mercy Comes to Comfort

John saw Jesus coming and said,

“Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!” (Jn. 1:29)

“He must become greater; I must become less.” (Jn. 3:30)

God's Promise Fulfilled

Zechariah's Song | Luke 1:67-80

Heaven's Light Will Guide Unto Peace

⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

“The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.” (Jn 1:5)

Heaven's Light Will Guide Unto Peace

John 1

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Discipleship Questions

1. Have I experienced the tenderness and comfort of repentance?

Discipleship Questions

1. Have I experienced the tenderness and comfort of repentance?
2. What are the valleys and hills, and rough spots in the road of my heart that need to be leveled and smoothed as I wait in hope and prepare for the Lord's return?

Discipleship Questions

1. Have I experienced the tenderness and comfort of repentance?
2. What are the valleys and hills, and rough spots in the road of my heart that need to be leveled and smoothed as I wait in hope and prepare for the Lord's return?
3. Think of one person who has been a "John the Baptist" in your life? What opportunities has God given you to be a voice in the wilderness for others?

FOREFOLDED
& FULFILLED

*PREPARE
THE WAY*

ISAIAH & THE ADVENT OF
CHRIST