



Arrival: Preparation
Message Notes, November 26, 2017
Galatians 4:4-5

We end this year with a focus on Advent, the season of the Christian year in which we celebrate the arrival in human flesh of the Messiah, Jesus, our Savior King.

Consider a big trip you have taken. Think about all the planning, arrangements, packing, etc., it took to prepare for such a trip.

Think of the coming of Jesus as a journey – the journey from divinity to humanity, from the glory of heaven to the brokenness of the earth; a journey requiring much preparation.

Days of Preparation:

- God prepared a forerunner, John the Baptizer. See Isaiah 40:3.
- God prepared a virgin.
- God prepared a not-yet husband.
- God prepared a place (in Bethlehem).
- God prepared an audience: Shepherds – uneducated and poor; Magi – wise and wealthy.

God, like a master conductor, was orchestrating all these special details to produce a beautiful symphony for the arrival of His Son. But these “days” are not the totality of God’s preparations. His preparations began “before the foundation of the world.”

Eons of Preparation

- God made a promise, revealing His plan for redemption – “He will crush [Satan’s] head” (Genesis 3:14-15).
- God prepared a people, establishing a covenant with Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:1-3).
- God confirmed His covenant – see Deuteronomy 7:7-9.
- God prepared the sacrificial system, revealing the gravity and cost of sin and giving a foreshadow of Jesus “the lamb who takes away the sins of the world.” See Leviticus 17:11. The cross of Jesus was not God’s plan B because the plan-A sacrificial system failed. Jesus was always plan A. The law and the sacrificial system exposed the need and pointed to God’s redemptive solution in Jesus.
- God raised up a king in David (to be the royal line for the Messiah). 2 Samuel 7:12
- God raised up prophets, who continually proclaimed His plan and pointed to the hope of His promise. See Isaiah 7:14, 9:6 and 53:1-6, Micah 5:2

The entirety of the Old Testament points to Jesus, preparing the way for the coming Savior King who would redeem humanity from the curse of sin. Advent is a season of reflection about these preparations, about His arrival, and about the salvation He brings.



What does all this preparation of God communicate to us, for our own lives?

1. Prevenient (grace). God “goes before.” He is always at work, through people and circumstances, to reveal Himself and to bring His purposes into our lives. He is ever present and engaged, in spite of our sins and failures, preparing the way for our redemption.

2. Providence. God is sovereign. He sees all. He is over all and in all. He is in control. He is ever at work, even when it seems He is absent. He ever works to “provide” (the root of “providence”) for our redemption and wholeness.

3. Promise. God fulfills His promise of redemption, and thus Jesus arrives “in the fullness of time,” at just the right time. His arrival is the fulcrum of all history. Therefore “let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for God can be trusted to keep His promise.” See Hebrews 10:23.