

"Let Us Prepare for the Hope of Our Savior"

Luke 1:5-17.

Advent= the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. The coming or second coming of Christ.

We are preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and eagerly waiting for Jesus' return in glory.

In the Old Testament over 400 scriptures and prophecies, outline his birth, life, death, resurrection, and return.

There is reason to hope today and His Name is Jesus!

1. Zacharias and Elizabeth were righteous before God. They were blameless and holy. God loves a holy people. He walks with us and talks with us and desires to fulfill our innermost dreams and desires. They had a dream for a son and believed in prayer that would happen. They may have given up on that prayer, but God didn't give up on it. He hears our hearts and always remembers.

Zacharias served for one week twice a year at the temple, one of perhaps 18,000 priest who served in a year. Offering the incense was something a priest could only once in his career. This was a special time for him and Elizabeth. The hour of incense burning was twice a day- 9 AM and 3:30 PM. 2. The angel promised them a child and he would be named John. They were old and she was barren. But that is hope!! Romans 5:5. HEB. 6:19. 3. They were obedient to The Lord in that he was to be named John which was different than their custom because it was custom to name a newborn child after a relative or named after the father which was apparently expected. Luke 1: 59-62. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

4. God had a plan for John before he was even born, and He has a plan for us too! Psalm 139: 13-16. 5. John preached repentance and Jesus preached salvation. John prepared for the coming Messiah, so we must ask ourselves- what are we doing to prepare for the return of the Messiah?! 6. The Holy Spirit will lead us! John ministered in the spirit and power and so can we. John 16:13. The Holy Spirit is the source of truth. He leads and we follow. ALL truth- truth necessary to make us mature in faith and become His equipped servants!

Sent from my iPad