

CHRISTMAS IS ... PREPARATION

A. God PREPARED Jesus to be born as a man in order to die for all mankind.

1. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.... John 3:16
2. Jesus humbled Himself, even to death on the cross. Phil 2:5-8
3. God sent His only begotten Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 Jn 4:9-10

B. God PREPARED Jesus to come to earth to bring us salvation.

1. Sins become white as snow. Isa 1:18
2. A virgin shall conceive Immanuel. Isa 7:14
3. Prophecy: Jesus' sacrifice for us. Isa 53:1-12
4. Prophecy: The Messiah crucified. Ps 22:1-31

C. God PREPARED the Name of Salvation for Jesus.

1. Call His Name Jesus to save His people from their sins. Matt 1:21
2. Salvation only in the Name of Jesus (no other name). Acts 4:10, 12
3. Jesus is the Name above every name. Phil 2:9-11

D. God PREPARED John the Baptist's birth to make way for Jesus.

1. To make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:14-17
2. John the Baptist testified that Jesus is the Son of God. John 1:29-34

E. God PREPARED and protected the Virgin Birth of Jesus.

1. Angel in a dream to Joseph with the Truth of God's Plan. Matt 1:18-25

F. God PREPARED a manger for the baby King Jesus.

1. No room at the Inn, but a manger prepared for Jesus. Luke 2:1-7

G. God PREPARED the Proclamation of Salvation:

1. To the lowest echelon of society (the shepherds), thru angels. Luke 2:8-20
2. To the highest echelon (the wise men), thru His Star in the East. Matt 2:1-10

H. God PREPARED wealth for Jesus and His family to live in exile in Egypt.

1. The gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matt 2:11
2. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fleeing to Egypt. Matt 2:13-15
3. Massacre of young male children (newborn to 2 years old). Matt 2:16

I. Christmas is a time for us to PREPARE for the New Year and for the new Era of Reality.

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| 1. In Righteousness (far from oppression, fear, and terror). | Isa 54:14 |
| 2. Safety of abiding in the Presence of God. | Ps 91:1-16 |
| 3. Rejoicing, prayer, peace, thanksgiving. | Phil 4:4-9 |

J. As always, we continue to PREPARE the way for the Return of Jesus Christ.

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| 1. Purify ourselves. | 1 John 3:1-3 |
| 2. Test the spirits. | 1 John 4:1-6 |
| 3. Love --- yes! Fear --- no! | 1 John 4:12-19 |
| 4. Praying in the Holy Spirit. | Jude: 20-21 |
| 5. Jesus is coming quickly! | Rev 22:12-13 |