

Preparation & Expectation

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2 NIV

THE CAST
OF
Christmas

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You officially have twenty-four days of shopping until Christmas. Don't worry because we can shop online any time. According to the *Washington Post*, UPS will ship somewhere around 750 million packages this holiday season. They'll do the work, and all we have to do is click and wait. Christmas is certainly a time of waiting and expectation. If we stop to think about it, we really shouldn't be surprised that life is filled with so much more preparation and waiting than doing, because in some ways preparation *is* the doing. The time of waiting started after the fall of mankind. After Adam and Eve fell into sin. God declared to the serpent in Genesis 3:15 NIV "15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Since then, people were waiting for a Savior. 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah was inspired by God to look forward to His birth. The prophets looked and longed for His coming. Micah 5:2 NIV ² says, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." This prophecy of Micah was quoted in the gospel of Matthew chapter 2 verse 6. For hundreds of years, the Israelites and the prophets looked to Him and waited for His rescue. Advent is the perfect time for us to wait and prepare. As the prophets waited for Jesus's arrival, we wait and prepare for His Second Coming.



Preparation Increases with Expectation

PREPARATIONS BEGINS WITH

Matthew 3:2 NIV ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Question: What can you do today to take up a posture of faith and genuine repentance?

REPENTANCE BEGINS WITH

Matthew 3:5-6 NIV ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. Question: When was the last time you confessed your sins? How did your confession helped you to repent from those sins? Is there a sin that you need to confess right now?

REPENTANCE PLUS CONFESSION

Matthew 3:8 NIV ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. Question: What fruit in your life can you directly relate to a time when you were genuinely repentant? How could genuine repentance in our church impact our city? Impact the world?

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