

Pastor Barden Gerace, Jr.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." ²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. - **Luke 24:13-27**

God prepared us in advance that the Messiah would come.

There are over 300 Old Testament prophecy's concerning the coming of the Messiah.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

The Bible isn't about you and how you can become a better person.

It's about Jesus and how His death and resurrection can transform you.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jesus is the true and better Adam.

Through one man sin entered the world, through one man, Jesus, it has been removed.

Jesus is the true and better Isaac.

Jesus became a perfect sacrifice for us.

Jesus is the true and better Moses, Moses was the mediator between God and man.

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Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father forever interceding for you and I.

Jesus is the true and better Aaron. Aaron the high priest passed through an earthly temple.

Jesus passed through a heavenly one when He ascended into heaven.

Jesus fulfilled the office of prophet, priest and king

Jesus is the Passover lamb. Through His sacrifice the demands of a holy God are met.

JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - **Matthew 1:20-21**

Jesus' name literally means "The Lord Saves".

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." - **Genesis 3:15**

Jesus would overcome the works of Satan.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. - **Hebrews 2:14-15**

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. - **I John 3:8**

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. - **Galatians 4:4-5**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - **Isaiah 9:6**

WHAT JESUS IS ...

WONDERFUL: No words can describe what He has done for us.

COUNSELOR: He will make wise decisions.

MIGHTY GOD; He is powerful and warrior in all He does.

EVERLASTING FATHER: He will care for us.

PRINCE OF PEACE: He has come to reconcile us back to God.

He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!