

**Preparing the
Way for the
King of Kings**

How do we prepare for visitors?

Door to Door Salesperson: Quickly hide from visibility

Friends and Family: Clean up the house/ make it welcoming

But how do we prepare for the King of Kings?

God Promises the One Who Will Prepare the Way

Isaiah 40:3

The very words John the Baptist proclaims in his ministry

Malachi 4:5-6

The return of Elijah the prophet is prophesied

Luke 1:5-10

Zechariah is chosen to offer incense (everyone is praying)

Luke 1:11-17

The angel Gabriel gives Zechariah the prophecy

Luke 1:18-20 (ESV) ¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because

you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.'

How often do we consider the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit to be too far out of reach?

Disbelieving God's word has consequences both in this life and the next. Thankfully, Zechariah was obedient and followed the instructions.

Gabriel spoke God's word directly to Zechariah. We must recognize the problem of our own unbelief.

In what ways are you disbelieving what God can do through you?

Luke 1:21-25 (NIV2011) ²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵ "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

The people, in prayer, were not expecting God's action (like those who prayed for Peter).

Zechariah and Elizabeth had the honor of parenting the greatest man from Adam until Jesus. He would be the one to prepare the world for the coming Messiah.

The Messiah has come... and will come again... will you be ready?

How are you preparing your heart for Jesus?
Are you willing to go where the Holy Spirit leads you?

