

Anticipating the Coming of the Lord

Preparing for What God Will Do

Selected Scriptures

1. **Preparation for the _____**
God had brought Israel out of slavery to the promised land and said that He would bless them as long as they remained faithful to Him, but would inflict judgment if they went after other gods (cf. Deut. 28:15). God knew that Israel would forsake Him for other gods (Deut. 31:16) which would bring His judgment upon them (cf. Dan. 9:11) and so He was already telling them of His plan of redemption (Deut. 30:1-5; Isa. 40:1ff).

2. **Preparation for the _____**
John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old Testament era. He was the forerunner of the Messiah in order to prepare the people for His ministry (Luke 1:17), and he witnessed the fulfillment of all of the hopes of the Old Testament in Jesus (Matt. 11:1-6). John preached repentance from sin unto God to the crowds (Matt. 3:1-6), to religious hypocrites (Matt. 3:7-10), and to powerful political rulers (Matt. 14:1-4). His message was that men have not abided by God's commands and that people must come to God on His terms which begins with a confession of sin (cf. Mark 1:4-5).

3. **Preparation for the _____**
The apostles had given up everything in order to follow Jesus (Matt. 10:28), refused to abandon Him when many others did (cf. John 6:68), and expected to see the fulfillment of their kingdom expectations (cf. Acts 1:6). The disciples were unprepared for the death of Christ even though He had repeatedly told them to expect it (John 8:21; 14:1-4, 27-29). The apostles were initially unprepared for Christ's death and resurrection but they quickly displayed confident faith that it had to happen as Christ had predicted (John 20:26-29; Acts 2:22-36: cf. Luke 24:26).

4. **Preparation for the _____**
Immediately following Jesus' ascension to heaven, the disciples were told to look for His return (Acts 1:11). The angels did not say when He would return, but Jesus had taught that He would return quickly when He would not be expected (Matt 24:36-41; Rev. 22:20). Christians are to be prepared for the return of Christ (cf. 1 John 2:28-3:3), and our preparation is demonstrated by how diligently we are attending to the tasks He has given to us (cf. Matt. 24:42-51).