



# THE HERALDS OF CHRISTMAS

**Sermon Title:** Preparing a People for the Lord

**Date:** December 8, 2024

**Text:** Luke 1:5-25

## **The fulfillment of prophecy in John the Baptist**

Malachi 4:5–6 ... "*Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.*"

Luke 1:16–17 ... "*And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*"

## **The last time Gabriel spoke in the OT he said ...**

Daniel 9:24 ... "*Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.*"

## **Prepare yourself for the coming of the Lord**

### **1) Serve humbly and consistently.**

Luke 16:10–11 ... *"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?"*

### **2) Be patient and trust in the Lord.**

Hebrews 10:23 ... *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;"*

### **3) Be receptive to God's discipline.**

Hebrews 12:11 ... *"All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."*

### **4) Continue in an attitude of repentance and faith.**

Ephesians 4:22–23 ... *"that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,"*