



When Jesus Enters Your World

Preparation

I. God's Complete Preparation

Jonah 1:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Now **the LORD had prepared a great fish** to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 4:6-8 (KJV)

⁶ And **the LORD God prepared a gourd**, and made *it* to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

⁷ But **God prepared a worm** when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. ⁸ And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that **God prepared a vehement east wind**; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, *It is better for me to die than to live.*

A. For Us ---a Redeemer

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV®)

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

Luke 2:25-33 (NIV®)

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. **He was waiting for the consolation of Israel**, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ **which you have prepared in the sight of all people**, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

❖ Preparation is often about waiting

B. For Us ---a Better Place

John 13:36-38, 14:1-6 (NIV®)

³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." ³⁷ Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times! . . . ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I am going there to prepare a place for you.** ³ And **if I go and prepare a place for you**, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Hebrews 11:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for **he hath prepared for them a city.**

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NIV®)

⁹ However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived **what God has prepared for those who love him**"-- ¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Isaiah 65:17-18 (NASB®)

¹⁷ "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *for* rejoicing And her people *for* gladness.

1 Corinthians 15:19 (NIV®)

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

II. Are you Prepared?

2 Timothy 2:20-21 (NIV®)

²⁰ In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. ²¹ **If a man cleanses himself** from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and **prepared to do any good work.**

A. Prepared for the Lord

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV®)

¹ "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. . . . The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

B. Prepared to Stand

Ephesians 6:12-17 (NASB®)

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and **having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;**

¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

C. Prepared for the Supernatural

Acts 1:4-9 (NIV®)

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, **he gave them this command:** "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You have prepared me for Your eternal purposes. You have provided redemption, sanctification, and a hope for my future. Holy Spirit, help me to be prepared ---I yield to You. May my thoughts and desires be directed by the Spirit of Almighty God. I turn away from distractions and lay down encumbrances. Through my life may Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on the earth. In Jesus' name, amen.

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