

MESSAGE NOTES
A Cinematic Christmas

Scripture Passages
(taken from the English Standard Version)

INTRODUCTION - *A Cinematic Christmas...*

CINEMATIC CHRISTMAS #1

Going home for the holidays:
"I'm sorry I ruined your lives, and
crammed eleven cookies into the
VCR." Elf

The Challenge of Going Home for the
Holidays

John the Baptist - Why is he a part of the
Christmas story? Why is he significant?

- The Birth of John the Baptist -
Luke 1:13-17
- Where have I heard this before?
Malachi 4:1-6

PREPARE THE WAY!

Luke 1:67, 76-80, 3:2-6

The Already/Not Yet
Matthew 3:1-2

GET OUT OF THE WAY!

John 3:25-30

How do we do this?

Gospel Application

*Have you responded to the "Already"
of the Christmas message?*

*Are you willing to "get out of the way"
this Christmas so that Jesus might increase?*

Luke 1:13-20

13But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." 18And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 19And 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. 20And 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."

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John 3:25-30

25Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. 28You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice." "Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease."



A CINEMATIC CHRISTMAS

Seasonal Movies & Our Need for a Savior











Going Home for the Holidays



Going Home for the Holidays

"I'm sorry I ruined your lives, and
crammed eleven cookies into the VCR."

Buddy the Elf



Going Home for the Holidays

“Walking into my parents’ house for the holidays always feels like walking into a bar, the faint tinge of tension between us resembling that stale whiff of hops soaked into a sawdust floor. There’s a familiar rising panic, a hint of nostalgia crumbling into prosaic history repeating itself that’s like standing on a cliff edge...Contempt giving way to anger giving way to giving [up]...Since I quit the sauce, every trip home feels like a trigger. Infantilized by my childhood single bed, a Diet Coke, and being the weird one in the corner who’s not a little tanked, I’m right back to 15 years old: gauche, paranoid and depressed. There is nothing that makes me want to get quite so [messed] up as visiting family.”

~Ruth Fowler, writer

“Often the people that are best at pushing our buttons are those that created them.”

~Ruth Fowler, writer



John the Baptist



John the Baptist

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of the Christmas story?**

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Why is he significant?

The Birth of John the Baptist

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14And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, **15**for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **16**And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, **17**and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

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Where have I heard this before?

Malachi 4: 1-6

1"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. 3And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts."

Where have I heard this before?

Malachi 4: 1-6

4"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. 5Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

It all makes sense now!

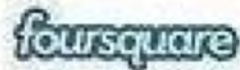
Social Media Explained



I need to pee



I peed



This is where I pee



Why am I peeing?



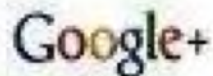
Look at this pee!



I'm good at peeing



Why did everyone pee & leave?



Let's all pee together!



"PREPARE THE WAY"

Luke 1:67, 76-80

67And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying...

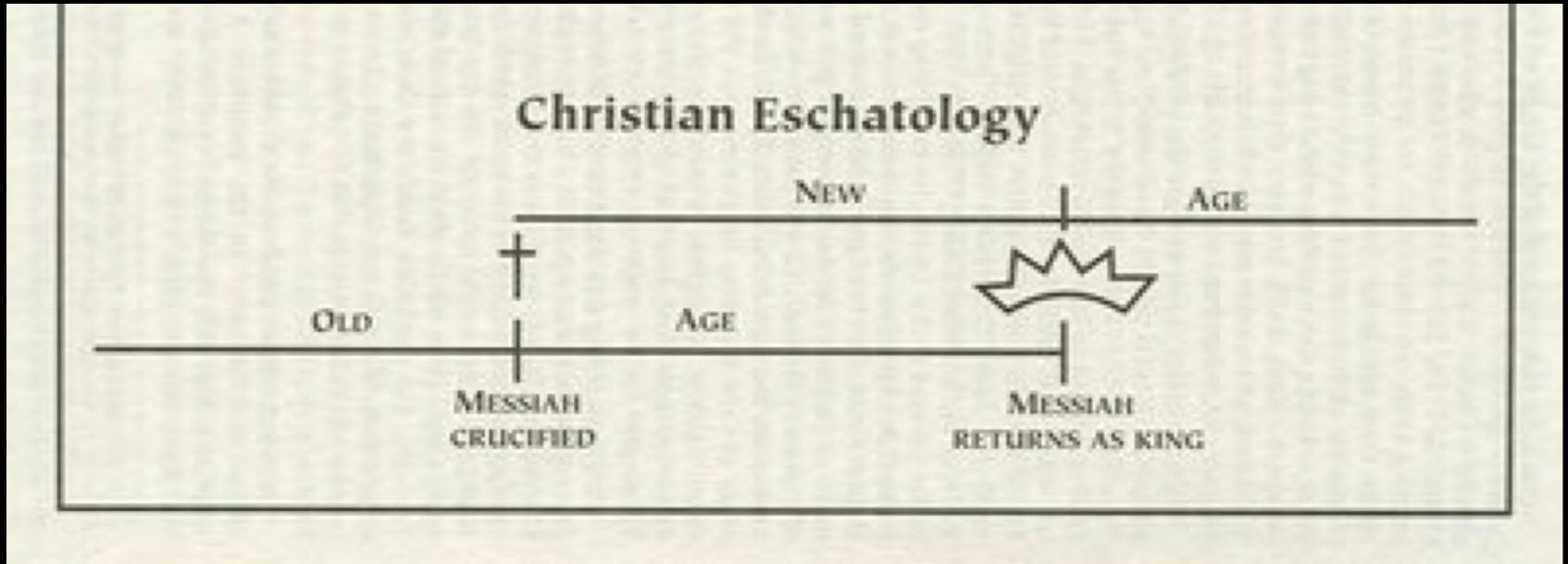
76And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."



The Story

Creation
Fall
Redemption
Restoration

The Already-Not Yet of the Kingdom of God (The Kingdom of Heaven)



The Already-Not Yet

Matthew 3:1-2

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Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

"PREPARE THE WAY"

Luke 3:2-6

2During the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, 6and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

“GET OUT OF THE WAY”

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John 3:25-29

25 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27 John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice."

“GET OUT OF THE WAY”

John 3:29-30

“Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.”



“PREPARE THE WAY”
&
“GET OUT OF THE WAY”

**“PREPARE THE WAY”
&
“GET OUT OF THE WAY”**

#1 – Worship God!

Do you have an affinity
for “Elf” culture?



O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

CCLI #1181771

Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining,

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!

Oh night divine,

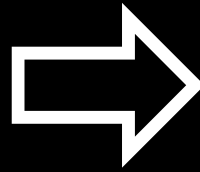
Oh night when Christ was born;

Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.

**“PREPARE THE WAY”
&
“GET OUT OF THE WAY”**

#2 – Kill sin.

“Buddy the elf. What’s your favorite color?”



“GET OUT OF THE WAY”



**“PREPARE THE WAY”
&
“GET OUT OF THE WAY”**

**#3 – Do as much damage as possible
to the kingdom of darkness!**

"You sit on a throne of lies."



“GET OUT OF THE WAY”

Philemon 6

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

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<http://www.crossway.org/blog/2011/12/free-download-bringing-the-gospel-home/>

Gospel Application

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