

# Prepare

A Vintage Holiday series through the Book of Malachi

## Sermon Notes



Prepare: Sermon Notes

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# RIGHT MESSENGER

Series resources and media: [nola.vcmvmt.com/prepare](http://nola.vcmvmt.com/prepare)

<sup>4</sup>“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And 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.”

Malachi 4:4–6

## OBEY THE LORD

<sup>4</sup>“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Malachi 4:4

- What has the book of Malachi been about?—Covenant Faithfulness
  - God had remained loyal and committed to Israel.
  - Israel had failed to remain loyal and committed to God.
    - Right Worship—Malachi 1:6–2:9; 3:6–12
    - Right Relationships—Malachi 2:10–3:5

<sup>37</sup>And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:37–40

## BECAUSE JESUS HAS COME

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day

Malachi 4:5a

<sup>1</sup>“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the

*covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.*

Malachi 3:1

*<sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup>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."*

Luke 1:16-17

- The First Great & Awesome Day

- Why did Jesus come?

*<sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

1 Peter 2:24

- Jesus came to remove our sin and God's wrath against us.
    - Jesus came to empower us to obey God.

## BECAUSE JESUS WILL RETURN

*<sup>5</sup>before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*

Malachi 4:5b

*<sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

Luke 1:30-33

- Jesus first came as the suffering servant; He will return the conquering king.

- The Second Great & Awesome Day

*<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong*

*to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- As we wait, will we remain loyal and committed to Jesus?

We prepare for the Lord when we obey him as we anticipate his return.

### **“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
Redeem thy captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

How will you obey God? How will you prepare?