

Two Expectant Mothers

From Malachi 3, 4 and Luke 1

Introduction: Happy New Year! Advent is the beginning of the church calendar because it takes us back to the beginning of the story.

This is a time to stop and remember and try to enter into the spirit of expectation that was prevalent in Israel at the time of Jesus' birth.

There are three chapters in this part of the great gospel story:

I. Expectation that **some day** deliverance would come – Malachi 3, 4

- God will send a messenger to prepare the way and then the Messenger of the Covenant will come to purify Israel;
- It is dark but wait for the rising of the sun of righteousness; but Elijah will come first to prepare the people.
- The wait was 400 years long.

II. Two expectant mothers mark **the coming** of that day – Luke 1:5-56

- The revelation comes first to Zechariah
- Elizabeth, his wife, is expecting a child
- In her sixth month, Mary, her relative, comes and stays for three months

- Note: The presence and work of the Holy Spirit marks this chapter as an unveiling of the Trinity

III. John the Baptist reminds us to expect even greater things for **the day that is yet to come** – Luke 1:57-80

- John was the prophet who would point the way to Jesus
- John marked out the beginning of each year of Jesus' ministry
 - He baptized Jesus to begin Jesus' year of preparation
 - His imprisonment began Jesus' year of popularity
 - His death began the final year of opposition

Take time to remember the first advent and pray that that same spirit of expectation would capture our hearts as we anticipate the Second Advent.