



Getting Ready for Christmas—Part 1  
The Planning  
From Sermon 11.6.22

Read *1 Peter 1:20*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: We've entered that time of year where Christmas is the main focus. There is so much get planned and done before the big holiday. All this activity should make us pause and consider what it took to pull off the first Christmas. Joseph and Mary's drama is amazing. But that's only a small final detail in the grand, cosmic story. The facts surrounding Christmas are astounding.

1. Was the 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas just a reaction/response from God, due to Adam's choice in Eden? No. Jesus coming was planned, down to the details, before anything was created. God fully knew all things, including Adam's temptation and failure long before that fateful day in the Garden.

[Note: the drama is even more grand than we can even cover in this series. We began with the Messianic prophecies. Keep in mind the calling of pagan Abraham to the One True God and his mission go to Canaan to set this in motion. Even before that, God granted the 1<sup>st</sup> couple another son after Abel's murder]

2. We've clearly seen the amazing prophecies about Jesus coming and His earthly ministry. But what two gigantic roadblocks had to be navigated first?

1- Israel's disobedience resulting in judgment, destruction, and captivity. See *Jeremiah 25:11-12*

2- Four world empires would have to come...3 of which would have to go. See *Daniel 2:37-40 & 7:3-7 & 16-17* [In the end, we'll need Rome in the Holy Land]

3. What is a Covenant? A binding agreement or promise between two or more parties. Some are conditional, however, while others are unconditional.

3a. Now consider some of the unconditional Covenants that became in jeopardy, mentioned on Sunday. Read the passage after each listed Covenant. Note and discuss what the promise includes.

<u>Covenant</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Promise</u>
Redemptive	<i>Galatians 4:4</i>	<u>God would send the Son, born as a man, to redeem the elect.</u>
Abrahamic	<i>Genesis 12:2-3</i>	<u>Abraham's descendants would be God's people &amp; a universal blessing.</u>
Palestinian	<i>Genesis 15:18</i>	<u>Israel's land possession would extend from Egypt to the Euphrates.</u>
Davidic	<i>2 Samuel 7:17-18</i>	<u>David would never fail to have a rightful heir to the throne.</u>

4. Read *Proverbs 21:1*. What events was God bringing about in the world, at the very same time Israel/Judah were entering God's judgments? The Medes and Persians were developing and uniting to the East (they will defeat the Babylonians and release Israel). To the West, the Greeks were coming out of their version of the dark ages and her many city-states were uniting. At almost the same time king Uzziah dies, Rome is founded in a place called Italia. See also *Acts 17:26*