

SERMON NOTES

Senior Pastor Subash Cherian

MESSAGE: BLESSED BE GOD (SUNRISE AND SUNSET) PT 1

God's redemptive plan revealed through the First Advent (Sunrise), the Interim, and the Second Advent (Sunset → Glory), announced through the Messiah and His forerunners.

I. BLESSED BE GOD – THE BENEDICTUS

- Luke 1:46–47, 68 / 2:14; 29
- Psalm 41:13 / 72:18 / 106:48

A. The Benedictus (Luke 1:68–79)

- Two Birth Announcements:
 1. Birth of the Messiah – Luke 1:68–75
 2. Birth of the Forerunner – Luke 1:76–79

B. Covenant Fulfillment

- Davidic Covenant – Luke 1:69; 2 Samuel 7:13
- Prophetic Promise – Luke 1:70; Micah 5:3; Isaiah 9:6–7
- Abrahamic Covenant – Luke 1:73
- New Covenant – Luke 1:73

II. SUNRISE – THE FIRST ADVENT (DAYSPRING)

A. Dayspring from on High

- Luke 1:78
- Malachi 4:2
 - “Dayspring” speaks of light breaking into darkness.
 - Jesus inaugurates the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:19).
 - He intentionally stops before Isaiah 61:2b – “the day of vengeance.”

B. The Message of Favor

- Isaiah 61:1–2a / 43:18–19
- Luke 4:18–19
- Job 38:12
- Lamentations 3:22–23
- Philippians 3:13–14
 - The First Advent is marked by grace, healing, restoration, and new beginnings.

C. The Forerunner of the Sunrise

- Malachi 3:1
- Luke 1:16–17, 76
 - John the Baptist comes in the spirit and power of Elijah (Malachi 4:5–6).

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III. INTERIM — BETWEEN SUNRISE AND SUNSET

- Acts 1:11, 8
- Hebrews 9:28
- Matthew 24:8
- The Church lives in the in-between time:
 - Waiting for His return
 - Witnessing by the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Growing and preparing

IV. SUNSET — THE SECOND ADVENT

A. Midnight Cry

- Matthew 25:6
- Luke 17:24
 - The Second Advent comes suddenly and visibly.
 - Christ returns as the Savior and King.

B. Two Comings of Christ

- Isaiah 9:6-7 / 61:1-2
- Luke 4:18-19
 - First Advent: Favor
 - Second Advent: Vengeance and Kingdom rule

C. Sunset Imagery & Judgment

- Genesis 24:63-64
- Malachi 4:1
- Matthew 14:10
- Revelation 11:3-6
 - Sunset symbolizes completion, judgment, and transition.
 - God's purposes move toward fulfillment.

V. THE FORERUNNER — THEN AND NOW

A. John the Baptist

- Luke 1:17; 1:80
- Matthew 17:11-13
- John 3:30
 - Grew strong in the Spirit in the wilderness.
 - Lived to point others to Christ: "He must increase..."

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B. End-Time Forerunner

- Malachi 4:5-6
- 2 Kings 2:9
- Revelation 11:3-6
- Calling people back to:
 - The Father
 - Repentance
 - Readiness for the Lord's return

VI. OUR RESPONSE — PREPARATION & REMEMBRANCE

A. Preparation

- Luke 1:80 / 2:52
- 1 Samuel 2:18
- 2 Peter 3:18
- Spiritual growth happens in hidden seasons before public ministry.

B. Remember

- Hebrews 10:25
- 1 Corinthians 11:26
- We gather, remember, proclaim, and watch.
- Every communion points forward to His return.

1. **Sunrise** — Christ came in grace and light
2. **Interim** — The Church prepares and witnesses
3. **Sunset** — Christ returns in power and glory
4. **Blessed be God** — His promises never fail