

Jesus' Forerunner, John the Baptist: A Message for All

Mathew 03: 01-12

(Mk. 1:1-8; Lk. 3:1 -20; Jn. 1:6-8, 15-37)

<p>1. His ministry <i>in the wilderness or desert</i></p> <p>2. His message to the people: <i>Repent,</i> <i>the Kingdom of Heaven is near</i></p> <p>a. His message fulfilled prophecy: One crying, "Prepare," Isa 40:03</p> <p>b. His message was the message of a prophet: He dressed and ate as a prophet</p> <p>c. His message bore fruit</p> <p>1) Crowds gathered</p> <p>2) Crowds confessed and were baptized</p> <p>3. His message to the religionists, <i>the Pharisees and Sadducees</i></p> <p>a. Warning 1: Flee the wrath to come</p> <p>b. Warning 2: Repent</p> <p>c. Warning 3: Heritage - godly parents and of fathers - is of no value</p> <p>d. Warning 4: Judgment is at hand</p> <p>1) Immediate: Now</p> <p>2) Inevitable: Every unfruitful tree is cast into fire</p> <p>3) Basis of judgment: Fruit</p>	<p>1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea</p> <p>2 And saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."</p> <p>3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"</p> <p>4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.</p> <p>5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.</p> <p>6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.</p> <p>7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"</p> <p>8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.</p> <p>9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.</p> <p>10 The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.</p>
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4. His message to all:

Christ - the Messiah - is coming

- a. Christ is greater than all
- b. Christ will baptize
with the Spirit and with fire
- c. Christ will judge
and thoroughly cleanse the world
 - 1) Will gather His people,
all believers
 - 2) Will burn,
destroy unbelievers

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance.
But after me will come
one who is more powerful than I,
whose sandals I am not fit to carry.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
and with fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand,
and he will clear his threshing floor,
gathering his wheat into the barn
and burning up the chaff
with unquenchable fire.”