

## **“John the Baptizer” Pt.2**

**Matthew 3:1-6**

**January 10, 2024**

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the Jewish people to receive their king.  
Jesus called John the Baptist the greatest man who lived up until that time – Matthew 11:11

John was the fulfillment of the last prophecy about the coming of Jesus – Malachi 4:5-6

An angel from God said that John would come in the spirit and power of Elijah – Luke 1:13-17

### **1. John’s Setting – 1**

### **2. John’s Message – 2**

### **3. John’s Purpose – 3**

John’s purpose (his mission) was described 700 years earlier – Isaiah 40:3-4

The voice of God had been heard thru the prophets throughout Israel’s history.

But when John came, the voice had been silent for 400 years.

“prepare the way” – get the road ready for the king to travel on it. In this case “the way” is not a physical road through the countryside but it is their hearts.

John is commanding the people to prepare their hearts for the Messiah’s work.

“straight” – no deviation from righteousness

Isaiah 40:4 continues “every mountain and hill shall be made low” – pride

“The uneven ground (sin) shall become level, and the rough places (sin) a plain”

John wasn’t clearing literal roads but he was seeking to clear people’s hearts of obstacles that kept them from their king (pride, sin, etc.)

Speaking of repentance

### **4. John’s Appearance – 4**

“camel’s hair” – similar to Elijah – 2 Kings 1:8 (also Zechariah 13:4-5 which suggests that a camel hair garment may have been identified with the office of the prophet)

“locusts” – Leviticus 11:20-33 – locusts and grasshoppers could be eaten

John’s clothing and diet were a rebuke to the self-indulgent religious leaders of Israel

### **5. John’s Results – 5-6**

“Jerusalem” – the home of the elite of Jewish religious society

“baptized” – total immersion in water

Completely different from the Levitical washings mentioned in the law of Moses

It was a one-time event

The only one-time washing in the Old Testament was performed on pagan Gentiles. It signified their coming as outsiders into the true faith of Judaism.

When a Jewish person received John's baptism it was a radical act of declaring that they were not depending on their Jewishness.

Later Jesus will commission the disciples to go into all the world preaching the gospel and to baptize those who believe in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Believer's baptism signifies death to a whole way of life – Romans 6:3-4

“confessing their sins” – recognize they have a sin problem that needs to be taken care of by the blood of the innocent sacrifice – Isaiah 53

### **Conclusion:**

John didn't act kingly or take for himself any of the king's glory – John 3:30

Have you repented?

- Do you have an intellectual understanding that sin is wrong?
- Do you agree with the teaching of Scripture regarding sin?
- Have you turned from sin and turned to a life of obedience to Jesus?

You need to do the next step in John's message: “prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths straight”

Don't let your pride and your sin keep you from putting your trust in Christ and the work He did on the cross.

If you are a believer:

Have you continued to have a heart attitude of repentance? 1 John 1:9; 3:2-3

2 Corinthians 3:18

Psalm 119:9, 11