

# Celebrating HIS First Coming

## *Remembering what the Prophets said...Pt.10*

### Luke 3:3-7 AMPC

3 And he went into all the country round about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance ([b]of hearty amending of their ways, with abhorrence of past wrongdoing) unto the forgiveness of sin.

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, The voice of one crying in the wilderness [shouting in the desert]: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His beaten paths straight.

5 Every valley and ravine shall be filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be leveled; and the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough roads shall be made smooth;

6 And all mankind shall see (behold and [c]understand and at last acknowledge) the salvation of God (the deliverance from eternal death [d]decreed by God).

7 So he said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, You offspring of vipers! Who [e]secretly warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

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**Luke 3:8 KJV**

*8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*

**Luke 3:8 AMPC**

*8 Bear fruits that are deserving and consistent with [your] repentance [that is, [a]conduct worthy of a heart changed, a heart abhorring sin]. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father; for I tell you that God is able from these stones to raise up descendants for Abraham.*

**“Stones”**: The imagery echoes Old Testament verses such as (Ezek. 11:19; 36:26); God can sovereignly turn a heart of stone into a believing heart. He can raise up children to Abraham from inanimate objects if He chooses, or even from stony-hearted Gentiles (Gal. 3:29). **“Children unto Abraham”**: Abraham’s true children are not merely physical descendants, but those who follow his faith, believing God’s Word the way he did (Rom. 4:11-16; 9:8; Gal. 3:7).

**Romans 4:16 AMPC**

*16 Therefore, [inheriting] the promise is the outcome of faith and depends [entirely] on faith, in order that it might be given as an act of grace (unmerited favor), to make it stable and valid and guaranteed to all his descendants—not only to the devotees and adherents of the Law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, who is [thus] the father of us all.*

To trust one's physical ancestry is to shift the focus of faith away from God Himself, and that is spiritually fatal (John 8:39-44). The Lord does not have grandchildren, only children, who your parents are makes no difference.

The promise to Abraham and his descendants was conditional. God would bless them, if they kept His commandments. There was a promises outcome if they did not habitually keep His commandments, Abraham's true seed do the works or acts of obedience of Abraham unto God's Word.

**John 8:39 AMPC**

*39 They retorted, Abraham is our father. Jesus said, If you were [truly] Abraham's children, then you would do the works of Abraham [follow his example, do as Abraham did].*

Abraham's true seed are the ones mentioned (in Galatians 3:29). These fruits worthy of repentance are a changed life.

**Galatians 3:29 AMPC**

*29 And if you belong to Christ [are in Him Who is Abraham's Seed], then you are Abraham's offspring and [spiritual] heirs according to promise.*

**James 2:17-26 AMPC**

*17 So also **faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is destitute of power (inoperative, dead).***

18 But someone will say [to you then], You [say you] have faith, and I have [good] works. Now you show me your [alleged] faith apart from any [good] works [if you can], **and I by [good] works [of obedience]** will show you my faith.

19 **You believe that God is one; you do well. So do the demons believe** and shudder [in terror and horror such as [a] make a man's hair stand on end and contract the surface of his skin]!

20 Are you willing to be shown [proof], **you foolish (unproductive, spiritually deficient) fellow,** that faith apart from [good] works is inactive and ineffective and worthless?

21 Was not our forefather Abraham **[shown to be] justified (made acceptable to God) by [his] works when he brought to the altar as an offering his [own] son Isaac?**

22 You see that [his] **faith was cooperating with his works,** and [his] faith was completed and reached its supreme expression [when he implemented it] by [good] works.

23 And [so] the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed in (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on) God, and this was **accounted to him as righteousness (as conformity to God's will in thought and deed),** and he was called God's friend.

24 You see that a man is justified (pronounced righteous before God) through what he does and not alone through faith [through works of obedience as well as by what he believes].

26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, **so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.**

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**Luke 3:9 KJV**

*9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

**Luke 3:9 AMPC**

*9 Even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees, so that every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.*

John was telling this people, you have had your chance, preparation had been made. If you are not productive to the kingdom, you will be cut down. Jesus cursed the fig tree and it withered and died. Irreversible judgment was imminent.

This (verse 9), is speaking of what happens to those at the judgment who have wasted their lives on themselves. Those people who have lived in habitual sin to please their own flesh; and have had no regard for the souls of those around them. The end of these people is hell and the lake of fire.

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**Luke 3:10 KJV**

*10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?*

**Luke 3:10 AMPC**

*10 And the multitudes asked him, Then what shall we do?*

The Rich Young Ruler is a biblical figure from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 19, Mark 10, Luke 18) who asks Jesus how to gain eternal life; Jesus tells him to sell his possessions but the man leaves sorrowful because his great wealth was more important to him than God, illustrating how attachment to riches can hinder true discipleship.

**Luke 18:17-34 AMPC**

*17 Truly I say to you, whoever does not accept and receive an welcome the kingdom of God like a little child [does] shall not in any way enter it [at all].*

**18 And a certain ruler asked Him, Good Teacher [You who are [a]essentially and perfectly [b]morally good], what shall I do to inherit eternal life [to partake of eternal salvation in the Messiah's kingdom]?**

*19 Jesus said to him, Why do you call Me [[c]essentially and perfectly [d]morally] good? No one is [[e]essentially and perfectly [f]morally] good—except God only.*

*20 You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not witness falsely, honor your father and your mother.*

*21 And he replied, All these I have kept from my youth.*

*22 And when Jesus heard it, He said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell everything that you have and [g]divide [the money] among the poor, and you will have [rich] treasure in heaven; and come back [and] follow Me [become My disciple, join My party, and accompany Me].*

*23 But when he heard this, he became distressed and very sorrowful, for he was rich—exceedingly so.*

*24 Jesus, observing him, said, How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!*

*25 For it is easier for a camel to enter through a needle's eye than [for] a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.*

*26 And those who heard it said, Then who can be saved?*

*27 But He said, What is impossible with men is possible with God.*

*28 And Peter said, See, we have left our own [things—home, family, and business] and have followed You.*

*29 And He said to them, I say to you truly, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God*

*30 Who will not receive in return many times more in this world and, in the coming age, eternal life.*

*31 Then taking the Twelve [apostles] aside, He said to them, Listen! We are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written about the Son of Man through and by the prophets will be fulfilled.*

*32 For He will be handed over to the Gentiles and will be made sport of and scoffed and jeered at and insulted and spit upon.*

*33 They will flog Him and kill Him; and on the third day He will rise again.*

*34 But they understood nothing of these things; His words were a mystery and hidden from them, and they did not comprehend what He was telling them.*

You and I may have different “thing(s)” that are a very hard to give up in order to imitator or follow Jesus. There are different “things” and then there is the personal conduct sins that Paul gives us as well.

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**Luke 3:11 KJV**

*11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.*

**Luke 3:11 AMPC**

*11 And he replied to them, He who has two tunics (undergarments), let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do it the same way.*

“Two coats”: Shirt-like garments. Only one could be worn at a time. John was still stressing the imminence of the coming judgment.

This was not a time to hoard one’s surplus goods. John is saying in this, you say you have repented and want to live for Jesus, now show me by giving up your selfish ways. Begin to do for others and stop thinking so much of yourselves.

Jesus will teach later on that in as much as you have done this for the least of these, you have done it for Him. Giving to someone who cannot possibly pay you back is giving to God.

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**Luke 3:12 KJV**

*12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?*

**Luke 3:12 AMPC**

*12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they said to him, Teacher, what shall we do?*

**“Publicans”:** Tax collectors who were disloyal Israelites hired by the Romans to tax other Jews, all for personal profit. They became symbols for the worst kind of people: (see 9:10-11; 11:19; 18:17; 21:31; Mark 2:14-16; Luke 5:30; 7:25, 29, 34; 18:11-13), Matthew had been one of them.

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**Luke 3:13 KJV**

*13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.*

**Luke 3:13 AMPC**

*13 And he said to them, Exact and collect no more than the fixed amount appointed you.*

Some of the tax collectors took bribes and pocketed some of the money for themselves. This type of employment was looked down upon by the Jews, but it appears here that John is saying, "If you must do this job, be honest and don't put any more burden onto the people other than is required".

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**Luke 3:14 KJV**

*14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.*

**Luke 3:14 AMPC**

*14 Those serving as soldiers also asked him, And we, what shall we do? And he replied to them, Never demand or enforce [a]by terrifying people or by accusing wrongfully, and always be satisfied with your rations (supplies) and with your allowance (wages).*

**“Soldiers”**: These were most likely members of the forces of Herod Antipas, stationed at Perea, perhaps, along with Judean police. **“Violent ... Accuse any falsely”**: Here and (in verse 13), John demanded integrity and high character in the practical matters of everyday life, not a monastic lifestyle or a mystical asceticism. (James 1:27). This external acts of obedience or external worship unto God is expressed in outward acts that is pure and unblemished in the sight of God.

Here in verse 14, many of the soldiers desired to be among those who repented in a desire to be ready for the coming of the Lord. John again tells them to do their job well without cruelty and he reminds them to be satisfied with the wages they make and not to covet others' money or wealth. These soldiers being armed could cause others around them problems, if they desired. John is warning them not to do this.

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**Luke 3:15 KJV**

*15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;*

**Luke 3:15 AMPC**

*15 As the people were in suspense and waiting expectantly, and everybody reasoned and questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether he perhaps might be the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).*

Many believed that John the Baptist was the "looked for" Messiah. They had expected Messiah for so long, and John seemed right for what they were looking for, he lived out the truth in word and deed. He was like no other "religious" man that they had ever come into contact with.

They also know of his miracle birth to aged parents, they knew his father, his name was different than his father... he was so different, it is not surprising that many thought this man to be Messiah or the Prophet Elijah.

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**Luke 3:16 KJV**

*16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

### **Luke 3:16 AMPC**

*16 John answered them all by saying, I baptize you with water; but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of Whose sandals I am not fit to unfasten. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

**“Baptize”**: He shall baptize with the Holy Ghost referring to the spiritual rebirth of the regenerate who shall receive the baptism of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13).

### **1 Corinthians 12:13 AMPC**

*13 For by [means of the personal agency of] one [Holy] Spirit we were all, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, baptized [and by baptism united together] into one body, and all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit.*

This experience began at Pentecost (Acts 1), and was repeated upon every new group of converts (Samaritans, Gentiles, John’s disciples), until it became normative for all Christian believers.

John here is trying to cool down their belief that he might be Messiah. He tells them quickly that he is not Messiah. John is attempting to prepare them for the Messiah by his message that also came from Jesus himself which is "repent".

"Repent", is to abhor (detest, loathe, hate, despise) your old way of thinking and living and be baptized or submerge yourself into this new way of living unto salvation. It literally means to have a change of heart, a change of mind, bring no “thing” with you regarding your religious thinking and actions.

The baptism of John was certainly different from Jesus' baptism. John's was the baptism of repentance, and the washing away of sins and pursuing this new and better life.

The baptism of Jesus sets you on fire to work for Him. This baptism of John was not the baptism of power from on high. This baptism of fire was the baptism evident at Pentecost to go be witnesses of this new way of living. This baptism of fire the Messiah would bring would burn away the sin and set all who receive it on fire to work for Messiah and the Holy Spirit would remind you of: sin, judgment, righteousness and the things to come that were already foretold by the Never Wrong Prophets.

Just as Isaiah's lips were purged with fire (in Isaiah 6:6-7)...

**Isaiah 6:1-11 AMPC**

*1 In the year that King Uzziah died, [in a vision] I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the skirts of His train filled the [most holy part of the] temple.*

*2 Above Him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two [each] covered his [own] face, and with two [each] covered his feet, and with two [each] flew.*

*3 And one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!*

*4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who cried, and the house was filled with smoke.*

*5 Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!*

6 Then flew one of the seraphim [heavenly beings] to me, having a live coal in his hand which he had taken with tongs from off the altar;

**7 And with it he touched my mouth and said, Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity and guilt are taken away, and your sin is completely atoned for and forgiven.**

**8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.**

**Isaiah 6:7-8 KJV**

7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, **this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.**

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

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### **Luke 3:17-22 AMPC**

17 His winnowing shovel (fork) is in His hand to thoroughly clear and cleanse His [threshing] floor and to gather the wheat and store it in His granary, but the chaff He will burn with fire that cannot be extinguished.

18 So with many other [various] appeals and admonitions he preached the good news (the Gospel) to the people.

19 But Herod the tetrarch, who had been [repeatedly] told about his fault and reprov'd with rebuke [a]producing conviction by [John] for [having] Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the wicked things that Herod had done,

20 Added this to them all—that he shut up John in prison.

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized, and [while He was still] praying, the [visible] heaven was opened

22 And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, saying, You are My Son, My Beloved! In You I am well pleased and find delight!

### **Genesis 1:2 AMPC**

2 The earth was without form and an empty waste, and darkness was upon the face of the very great deep. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.

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John the Baptist started telling each grouping “what they must do” he wasn't ambiguous... God's Word is not ambiguous about sin and His Word has never changed.

### **Malachi 3:6 AMPC**

6 For I am the Lord, I do not change;

### **Hebrews 13:8 AMPC**

*8 Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is [always] the same, yesterday, today, [yes] and forever (to the ages).*

Paul gives the follower of Jesus Christ or the ones what have been baptized into this new way of living and thinking, actual lists in what we need to abhor.

### **Abhor defined;**

To hate extremely, or with contempt; to loathe, detest, despise or neglect.

These lists highlight behaviors contrary to God's will which the Bible call sin, but, Paul also emphasizes that people can be transformed from these sins through Christ, as seen in 1 Corinthians 6:11, which mentions some Corinthians were once these things but were washed and sanctified.

Paul lists various sins, often called "works of the flesh," in his letters in Galatians 5:19-21 (sexual immorality, idolatry, strife, envy, drunkenness, etc.)

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, homosexual offenders, thieves, greedy, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers), emphasizing they prevent inheriting God's kingdom, though redemption is possible.

Another list is found in Romans 1:29-31 details pervasive wickedness like malice, envy, murder, and lawlessness.

## **Key Lists of Sins in Paul's Letters:**

### **Galatians 5:19-21 AMPC (Works of the Flesh)**

19 Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency,

20 Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies),

21 Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. **I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 AMPC (Won't Inherit God's Kingdom)**

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived (misled): neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality,

10 Nor cheats (swindlers and thieves), nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers **will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God.**

11 **And such some of you were [once].** But you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), and you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), and you were justified [pronounced righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God.

**Romans 1:26-32 AMPC** (*Wickedness of Humanity*)

26 For this reason God gave them over and abandoned them to vile affections and degrading passions. For their women exchanged their natural function for an unnatural and abnormal one,

27 And the men also turned from natural relations with women and were set ablaze (burning out, consumed) with lust for one another—men committing shameful acts with men and suffering in their own [a]bodies and personalities the inevitable consequences and penalty of their wrong-doing and going astray, which was [their] fitting retribution.

28 And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome,

29 Until they were filled (permeated and saturated) with every kind of unrighteousness, iniquity, grasping and covetous greed, and malice. [They were] full of envy and jealousy, murder, strife, deceit and treachery, ill will and cruel ways. [They were] secret backbiters and gossipers,

30 Slanderers, hateful to and hating God, full of insolence, arrogance, [and] boasting; inventors of new forms of evil, disobedient and undutiful to parents.

31 [They were] without understanding, conscienceless and faithless, heartless and loveless [and] merciless.

32 Though they are fully aware of God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them themselves but approve and applaud others who practice them.

## Other Notable Lists

**Ephesians 5:3-5:** Sexual immorality, impurity, greed, obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking.

**Colossians 3:5-9:** Sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed (idolatry), anger, rage, malice, slander, obscene language, lying.

### 1 John 1:9 AMPC

*9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] **and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].***



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