

Celebrating HIS First Coming

Remembering what the Prophets said...Pt.11

Matthew 3 AMPC

1 In those days there appeared John the Baptist, preaching in the Wilderness (Desert) of Judea

2 And saying, Repent (I think differently; change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 This is he who was mentioned by the prophet Isaiah when he said, The voice of one crying in the wilderness (shouting in the desert), Prepare the road for the Lord, make His highways straight (level, [b]direct).

Isaiah 40:3-5 AMPC

3 A voice of one who cries: Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth in the desert a highway for our God!

4 Every valley shall be lifted and filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked and uneven shall be made straight and level, and the rough places a plain.

5 And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

4 This same John's garments were made of camel's hair, and he wore a leather girdle about his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the country round about the Jordan went out to him;

6 And they were baptized in the Jordan by him, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, **You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee and escape from the wrath and indignation [of God against disobedience] that is coming?**

8 Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance [let your lives prove your change of heart];

9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, We have Abraham for our forefather; for I tell you, God is able to raise up descendants for Abraham from these stones!

10 And already the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you [c]in (with) water [d]because of repentance [that is, because of your [e]changing your minds for the better, heartily amending your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins]. But He Who is coming after me is mightier than I, Whose sandals I am not worthy or fit to take off or carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

12 His winnowing fan (shovel, fork) is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear out and clean His threshing floor and gather and store His wheat in His barn, but the chaff He will burn up with fire that cannot be put out.

Note: _____

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John to be baptized by him.

14 But John [f]rotested strenuously, having in mind to prevent Him, saying, It is I who have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?

15 **But Jesus replied to him, [g]Permit it just now; for this is the fitting way for [both of] us to fulfill all righteousness [that is, to [h]perform completely whatever is right]. Then he permitted Him.**

16 And when Jesus was baptized, He went up at once out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him.

17 And behold, a voice from heaven said, This is My Son, My Beloved, in Whom I delight!

There were two reasons for Jesus to say it was time to “**fulfill all righteousness.**” One reason immediately follows in the context, and one is rooted in an earlier Biblical context. First, the baptism confirmed Jesus as the Messiah. Second, it confirmed John as the forerunner to the Messiah. Both Jesus and John were acting in fulfillment of prophecy.

When Jesus came up out of the water after being immersed (or baptized) by John, the Spirit of God descended like a dove from heaven upon Jesus (Matthew 3:16). From the heavens was heard an audible voice that said, “**This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased**” (Matthew 3:17). Scripture prophesied that the Messiah would have the Spirit of God resting on Him (Isaiah 11:2) and He would be God’s Son (Isaiah 9:6; Mark 1:1).

At Jesus' baptism, both the Holy Spirit and the Father affirm that Jesus was the Messiah. The timing is significant. It was important that they made that affirmation after John baptized Jesus. Jesus recognized the significance of the moment even if John did not at first. Jesus recognized that the baptism was fitting—it was time to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15), and the way for Jesus and John to do that was by this particular baptism.

After being baptized Jesus went away to fast while He was tempted, tested and tried by Satan....

Matthew 4:1-3 AMPC

1 Then Jesus was led (guided) by the [Holy] Spirit into the wilderness (desert) to be tempted (tested and tried) by the devil.

*2 And **He went without food for forty days and forty nights, and later He was hungry.***

*3 **And the tempter came and said to Him, If You are God's Son, command these stones to be made [[a]loaves of] bread.***

Matthew 4:3 GNT

3 Then the Devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread."

Notice in verse 3 that the devil is referred to as "the tempter" it is a name and also a characteristic of the devil. Below is a list of many of the names of Satan or the devil in the Bible, categorized by their description:

Specific Titles and Names:

Satan: Meaning "adversary" or "opponent" (Job 1:6).

Devil: meaning "slanderer" or "accuser" (Matthew 4:1).

Lucifer: Meaning "light-bringer" or "shining one," often used for his state before falling (Isaiah 14:12).

Beelzebub/Beelzebul: "Prince of demons" (Matthew 12:24).

Belial: Meaning "worthless" or "wicked" (2 Corinthians 6:15).

Abaddon/Apollyon: Meaning "Destroyer" (Revelation 9:11).

Descriptions of His Character and Role:

The Tempter: (Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5).

The Evil One: (Matthew 13:19).

The Father of Lies/Liar: (John 8:44).

Murderer: (John 8:44).

Accuser of the Brethren: (Revelation 12:10).

Enemy: (Matthew 13:39).

Descriptions of His Power and Domain:

Prince of this World: (John 12:31).

God of this Age/World: (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Prince of the Power of the Air: (Ephesians 2:2).

The Great Dragon/Serpent: (Revelation 12:9).

Ruler of Darkness: (Ephesians 6:12).

Metaphorical Titles:

Angel of Light: Disguises himself as such (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Roaring Lion: Seeking to devour (1 Peter 5:8).

Leviathan: Crooked serpent (Isaiah 27:1).

Son of the Morning: (Isaiah 14:12).

This is how Jesus replied when tempted by satan...

Matthew 4:4-17 AMPC

4 But **He replied, It has been written,** *Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and placed Him on [b]a turret (pinnacle, [c]gable) of the temple [d]sanctuary.

6 **And he said to Him, If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,** *He will give His angels charge over you, and they will bear you up on their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.*

The devil knows the Bible... but he twists, deletes, deceives, and leads people into error/sin. This false teaching and or instruction or lack of it ultimately leads people into iniquity or unrepentant sin which will not enter the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 24:5 AMPC

5 *For many will come in (on the strength of) My name [appropriating the name which belongs to Me], saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and they will lead many astray.*

Jude 3-4 AMPC

3 *Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. [**But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you]** to contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints [the faith which is that sum of Christian belief which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God].*

4 **For certain men** have crept in stealthily [gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who **pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality,** and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

John 1:1 AMPC

1 In the beginning [before all time] **was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.**

Note: _____

Jeremiah 23:9-40 AMPC

9 **Concerning the prophets:** My heart [says Jeremiah] is broken within me, all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, a man whom wine has overcome, because of the Lord and because of His holy words [which He has pronounced against unfaithful leaders].

10 **For the land is full of adulterers (forsakers of God, Israel's true Husband).** Because of the curse [of God upon it] the land mourns, the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. They [both false prophets and people] rush into wickedness; and their course is evil, their might is not right.

The “adulterers” in Jeremiah 23:10 are the corrupt, false prophets and priests of Jerusalem (modern day: pastor, preacher and teacher) who led the people away from God through idolatry and immoral, dishonest conduct regarding sin, judgment and righteousness. They were no longer speaking for God or the Truth but using their position to deceive others into sin.

*11 **For both [false] prophet and priest are ungodly and profane;** even in My house have I found their wickedness, says the Lord.*

*12 Therefore their way will be to them like slippery paths in the dark; they will be driven on and fall into them. **For I will bring evil upon them** in the year of their punishment, says the Lord.*

*13 And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: they prophesied by Baal and **caused My people Israel to err and go astray.***

*14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; **they encourage and strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that none returns from his wickedness. They have all of them become to Me like Sodom, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah.***

*15 Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets: Behold, I will feed them with [the bitterness of] wormwood and make them drink the [poisonous] water of gall, **for from the [false] prophets of Jerusalem profaneness and ungodliness have gone forth into all the land.***

*16 Thus says the Lord of hosts: **Do not listen to the words of the [false] prophets who prophesy to you.***

Verse 16 continued next page...

They teach you vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility) and fill you with vain hopes; they speak a vision of their own minds and not from the mouth of the Lord.

17 They are continually saying to those who despise Me and the word of the Lord, The Lord has said: You shall have peace; and they say to everyone who walks after the stubbornness of his own mind and heart, No evil shall come upon you.

18 For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord, that he should perceive and hear His word? Who has marked His word [noticing and observing and giving attention to it] and has [actually] heard it?

19 Behold, the tempest of the Lord has gone forth in wrath, a whirling tempest; it shall whirl and burst upon the heads of the wicked.

20 The anger of the Lord shall not turn back until He has executed and accomplished the thoughts and intents of His mind and heart. **In the latter days you shall consider and understand it perfectly.**

21 I did not send these [false] prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

22 But if they had stood in My council, then they would have caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them [My people] from their evil way and from the evil of their doings.

23 Am I a God at hand, says the Lord, and not a God afar off?

24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? says the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? says the Lord.

25 I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed [visions on my bed at night].

26 [How long shall this state of things continue?] How long yet shall it be in the minds of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even the prophets of the deceit of their own hearts,

27 Who think that they can cause My people to forget My name by their dreams which every man tells to his neighbor, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?

28 The prophet who has a dream, let him tell his dream; but he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat [for nourishment]? says the Lord.

29 Is not My word like fire [that consumes all that cannot endure the test]? says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks in pieces the rock [of most stubborn resistance]?

30 Therefore behold, I am against the [false] prophets, says the Lord, [I am even now descending upon them with punishment, these prophets] who steal My words from one another [imitating the phrases of the true prophets].

31 Behold, I am against the prophets, says the Lord, who use their [own deceitful] tongues and say, Thus says the Lord.

32 Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, says the Lord, and tell them and cause My people to err and go astray by their lies and by their vain boasting and recklessness —when I did not send them or command them; nor do they profit these people at all, says the Lord.

33 *And when these people, or a prophet or a priest, ask you, What is the burden of the Lord [the thing to be lifted up now]? then you shall say to them, What burden [indeed]! [You are the burden!] And I will disburden Myself of you and I will cast you off, says the Lord.*

34 *And as for the prophet, the priest, or [any of these] the people, whoever [in mockery calls the word of the Lord a burden and] says, The burden of the Lord, I will even visit in wrath and punish that man and his house.*

35 *[For the future, in speaking of the utterances of the Lord] thus shall you say every one to his neighbor and every one to his brother: What has the Lord answered? or, What has the Lord spoken?*

36 *But the burden of the Lord you must mention no more, for every man's burden is his own response and word [for as they mockingly call all prophecies burdens, whether good or bad, so will it prove to be to them; God will take them at their own word]; for you pervert the words [not of a lifeless idol, but] of the living God, the Lord of hosts, our God!*

37 *Thus shall you [reverently] say to the prophet: What has the Lord answered you? Or, What has the Lord spoken?*

38 *But if you say, The burden of the Lord, therefore thus says the Lord: Because you said these words, The burden of the Lord, when I sent to you, saying, You shall not say, The burden of the Lord,*

39 *Therefore behold, I, even I, will assuredly take you up and cast you away from My presence, you and the city [Jerusalem] which I gave to you and to your fathers.*

40 *And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you and a perpetual shame which will not be forgotten.*

Back to Matthew 4:5....

Matthew 4:5-17 AMPC

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and placed Him on [b]a turret (pinnacle, [c]gable) of the temple [d]sanctuary.

6 And he said to Him, **If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,** He will give His angels charge over you, and they will bear you up on their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

7 **Jesus said to him, [e]On the other hand, it is written also,** You shall not tempt, [f]test thoroughly, or [g]try exceedingly the Lord your God.

8 **Again, the devil took Him** up on a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory (the splendor, magnificence, preeminence, and excellence) of them.

9 And he said to Him, These things, all taken together, I will give You, if You will prostrate Yourself before me and do homage and worship me.

10 **Then Jesus said to him, Begone, Satan! For it has been written,** You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him alone shall you serve.

11 **Then the devil departed from Him,** and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Luke 4:13 AMPC

13 And when the devil had ended every [the complete cycle of] temptation, he [temporarily] left Him [that is, stood off from Him] until another more opportune and favorable time.

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested and put in prison, He withdrew into Galilee.

13 And leaving Nazareth, He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the country of Zebulun and Naphtali—

14 That what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be brought to pass:

15 The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, in the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles [of the [il]peoples who are not of Israel]—

16 The people who sat (dwelt enveloped) in darkness have seen a great Light, and for those who sat in the land and shadow of death Light has dawned.

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, crying out, Repent (change your mind for the better, heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 4:14 fulfills the prophecy from Isaiah 9:1-2 The prophecy foretells that a "great light" would shine on the people in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali "Galilee of the Gentiles" who were walking in darkness.

Isaiah 9:1-2 AMPC

1 But [in the midst of judgment there is the promise and the certainty of the Lord's deliverance and] there shall be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He will make it glorious, by the way of the Sea [of Galilee, the land] beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; those who dwelt in the land of intense darkness and the shadow of death, upon them has the Light shined.

Matthew highlights that Jesus' ministry began in this specific, area to show that the Messianic light was for both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus began his ministry, performing miracles, teaching the Truth and according to many Bible scholars it was 1 1/2 to 2 years after Jesus baptism that John was imprisoned and ultimately beheaded. But, something happened after John was murdered...

Matthew 14 AMPC

*1 At that time Herod the governor heard the reports about Jesus,
2 And he said to his attendants, This is John the Baptist; He has been raised from the dead, and that is why the powers of performing miracles are at work in Him.*

The people mistook Jesus (the Messiah) for John because of the Truth that he, John the Baptist was teaching and how he lived his life... that is how holy John lived. It was John who was mistaken or thought to be the Messiah and Jesus was mistaken or thought to be John because of the message that He spoke. What did John teach? repentance, sin, judgement and righteousness and the things to come...



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