

# John the Baptist

## *Preparing the Way*

By: Tim Kelley



# The Centurian -

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## John the Baptist -

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Luke 7:28** "For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist . . ."

## Our Plan –

- Discuss the reason John was born
- Find the message behind his ministry
- Try to answer some of the questions we might have about John
- Why is it said that John came “in the spirit of Elijah”?
- See how John’s calling parallels our own

# John's Purpose

**NKJ Luke 1:13-17** "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup> "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. <sup>15</sup> "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup> "And **he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.** <sup>17</sup> "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to **make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**"

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<sup>NKJ</sup> **Luke 1:76-79** <sup>76</sup> "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, <sup>77</sup> To **give knowledge of salvation to His people** By the remission of their sins, <sup>78</sup> Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

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<sup>ESV</sup> **Malachi 4:2** But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

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- to give knowledge of salvation to God's people
- preparing the people for the coming of Messiah
- to bear witness of the Messiah

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<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 4:12-17** <sup>12</sup> Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali . . . <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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<sup>ESV</sup> **Mark 1:14-16** <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." <sup>16</sup> Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

# John's Message

<sup>ESV</sup> **Mark 1:1-3** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

<sup>ESV</sup> **Mark 1:4** . . . John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

# John's Message

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 3:5-6** <sup>5</sup> Then **Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan** were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Luke 3:1-3** In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar . . . the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And **he went into all the region around the Jordan**, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

# John's Message

<sup>ESV</sup> **Isaiah 1:16-17** <sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.



# John's Message

<sup>ESV</sup> **Luke 3:10-14** <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" <sup>11</sup> And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

# John's Message

<sup>ESV</sup> **Luke 3:7-9** <sup>7</sup> He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, **God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.** <sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

# John's Witness

<sup>ESV</sup> **John 1:14-15** <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> ( John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

# John's Witness

<sup>ESV</sup> **John 1:19-21** <sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

# John's Witness

<sup>ESV</sup> **Luke 20:1** One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up <sup>2</sup> and said to him, "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority." <sup>3</sup> He answered them, "I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, <sup>4</sup> Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?" <sup>5</sup> And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' <sup>6</sup> But if we say, 'From man,' all the people will stone us to death, **for they are convinced that John was a prophet.**"

# John's Witness

<sup>ESV</sup> **Mark 6:20** . . . Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

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**Mark 6:12-16** <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. <sup>14</sup> King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

# John's Witness

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 3:11-12** <sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



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<sup>ESV</sup> **Mark 1:7-8** And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

# John's Witness

<sup>ESV</sup> **John 1:26-27** “. . . I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

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<sup>ESV</sup> **John 1:29-30** <sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'

## Review –

- John began to turn many of the children of Israel to God thru baptism of repentance
- John began to prepare the way for Messiah by:
  - being a walking-talking witness of God’s way
  - teaching about the coming Messiah

## Next Time –

- Questions about John:
  - Did he doubt Yeshua
  - The Kingdom breaks forth and suffers violence
- How was John “in the spirit of Elijah”
  - Did he perform that role
- Is John’s ministry an example for us?

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

**Shalom Alechim**

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

*Peace be Unto You*