

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

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MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2023

John's Message of Repentance Sets the Stage for the Anointed King Luke 3:1-22

Based on Luke's account so far, we expect John to be...

- ... a great, Spirit-filled prophet of the Most High, to the joy of many... (vv. 14-15, 76)
- ... who will turn Israel to God's ways in preparation for Yahweh's coming (vv. 16-17, 76)
- ... in Elijah's spirit and power (vv. 17, 80)
- ... to give knowledge of God's rescue in regards to forgiveness of sins (v. 77)

John prepares Israel for their King by ...

1. ... proclaiming God's message throughout Judea.
Luke 3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, **2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.
3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan...
Matt. 3:5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
2. ... announcing God's imminent arrival.
Luke 3:3b... proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **4** As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD, make his paths straight."
3. ... identifying God's plan for restored relationship with Himself through the removal of guilt.
Luke 3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, **6** and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

John's preparation calls for a changed heart resulting in righteous action.

1. Genealogical pedigree will not impress the coming King.
Luke 3:7 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? **8** 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. **9** 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."

2. Turning to God produces a variety of responses uniformly pleasing to the King.

Luke 3:8a Bear fruits in keeping with repentance...**10** And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" **11** And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." **12** Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" **13** And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." **14** 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."

The Righteous King will judge the responsive and the rebellious when he comes.

Luke 3:15 As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, **16** John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." **18** So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. **19** But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, **20** added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Why does John the Baptist matter?

1. God sent John to pre-authenticate Jesus's identity so that people would believe and gain life. (John 1:6-8)
2. As God's prophet, John provided independent attestation to Jesus's Messianic claims. (John 5:31-34)
3. John's teaching produced an atmosphere of expectant joy for the coming Kingdom of God. (John 5:35)
4. Jesus's inauguration is the crescendo of John's ministry. (Matt. 3:15)

Jesus comes to John and is publicly identified as the Beloved, Spirit-anointed Son of God

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, **22** and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Reflection & Discussion

1. John's ministry of repentance for the forgiveness of sin is repeatedly connected to "joy". What has been your emotional response to the word "repentance"? Has this passage in Luke's account made "repentance" an occasion of joy?
2. Repentance is inherently about restoring relationship. Have you experienced repentance in a human relationship? What was the result?
3. Read 1 John 1:8-9, 2:1-3. How does this message parallel John the Baptist's teaching in Luke 3:1-22?

SONGS

"NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD"

"THIS IS AMAZING GRACE"

"JESUS WE LOVE YOU"

"CHRIST IS RISEN (HALLELUJAH)"

Altamont Music Pastor: Shawn Hoelsch
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BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 39,967.78
WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 56,478.28
Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 73,970.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS
EXPANSION FUND: \$ 50,586.00

HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Database Information Form



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