



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

John the Baptist – Fulfilling Prophecy

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke is writing to Theophilus so the he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke communicates eyewitness accounts and carefully researches all that has been taught and handed down about Jesus (1:1-4). Additionally, Luke lays the ground work and carefully shares key secular events that provide historical and prophetic perspective. In the first several verses of chapter three Luke provide a dateline by communicating that Tiberius Caesar was in the fifteenth year of his reign (A.D. 25-26), Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea and the tetrarch of Galilee and Perea was Herod (Antipas). Additionally, the high priesthood was of Annas (Jn 18:13) and Caiaphas (Mt 26:57), all of who will be involved in the arrest of Jesus. Importantly during this time a messenger from God, John (the Baptist), the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth publically appears after living in the wilderness or desert. In the desert John grew physically and became strong spiritually (Luke 1:80). John would be great in the sight of the Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit, turn many of the sons of Israel back to God and be a forerunner before Him, Jesus, to make ready those prepared for the Lord (Lk 1:15-17). John was the last prophet of the OT and a subject of prophecy (Is 40:3-5).

“...the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT. ‘EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE BROUGHT LOW; THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH; AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.’ ” (Luke 3: 2-6 NASB)

John was Spirit filled. Luke shares that the word or message of God came to John, the son of the priest Zacharias and Elizabeth. John, in following in his family and father’s footsteps, would become a priest, yet John rejected the priestly position and followed God’s direction as a prophet. This message from God came to John in the wilderness or desert. John shared God’s message in all the area close to the Jordan River. What did John preach?

“A baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” John’s baptisms looked forward to the coming messiah and in preparing their hearts (Acts 19:1-5) while Christian baptisms look back to Christ death, burial and resurrection (Rm 6:1-6). How did John fulfill a prophecy?

John was the voice of the one crying in the wilderness. Luke records, “as it is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet,” (Lk 3:4) (Is 40:3-5). John fulfills the prophecy that Isaiah proclaimed. John, filled with the Holy Spirit, and communicated by God in the wilderness, was to proclaim the coming Messiah and he did it with passion. How was John to prepare the way?

John the road or heart preparer. In preparing for the Messiah, scripture compares it to the preparation of a road for a king to arrive. For a King: the low road was raised; the high road way lowered; roads were made straight and smooth. John was similarly preparing the hearts ‘roads’ for the coming Messiah.

John the Baptist fulfilled prophecy and prepared hearts for Jesus, the expected Messiah.

For Your Consideration:

- Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
- Are you a road builder? Are you helping prepare hearts to accept Jesus Christ, Lord and Messiah?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44