



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The Last OT Prophet

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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).

*“So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? “Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. “Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds were questioning him, saying, “Then what shall we do?” And he would answer and say to them, “The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise.” And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than what you have been ordered to.” Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, “And what about us, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages.”(Luke 3:7-14 NASB)*

**John “the Baptist” preached one message; repentance.** John was the last of the OT prophets heralding the coming Messiah. John was a priest, a prophet, and preacher. God uses John to assist in the transitions the OT; expecting the Messiah, to the NT; the Messiah’s arrival. John preceded Jesus because the declaring of judgment of sin (wrath v7) and the repentance of sin (recognition and change of direction v8) precede the mercy and saving grace of God found in Jesus the Messiah. Conviction preceded conversion. What warning did John give to the people?

**Abraham’s children are those that follow his faith.** John was sharing that the people who were the true children of Abraham were not the physical lineage but rather those that followed his faith. John was sharing that faith in God was something that was personally accepted and believed and not provided by just being a part of a religious family. How was this faith displayed?

**Faith will be revealed or displayed in a person’s actions or fruit.** John directed the people to be generous to others and not be selfish. (v11) Additionally, John declared that people should be honest (v 13) and not abusive (v 14) to others. John was sharing that in whatever a person’s occupation they were to do it with high integrity and character. John was attempting to prepare their hearts, minds, and actions for the coming Messiah.

### For Your Consideration:

- Have you accepted Jesus the Messiah and as a result turned away from sin?
- Do you ‘own’ your faith or are you relying on the faith of your parents or family?
- Do your actions or the fruit of labor reveal your faith?

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### 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