



“The Ministry Before Jesus Returns”

***Luke 3:2** During the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

1. **John was in the wilderness** for 12 years (The symbol of authority) When the Word of God came upon him. This is the term that tells us the Word of God filled John.
2. **In 2021 we need the Word** of God to come upon us. This coming year could be a wilderness experience for many Christians.

***Luke 3:3** He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

1. **Repentance is a key message** for our movement as the Kingdom of God goes forward in a world that is rejecting Him.
2. **Look for the turnaround** in others, pray for it. (Repentance begins in our own hearts)

***Luke 3:4** As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, '**Prepare the way for the Lord**, make straight paths for him.

1. **This is our calling** in 2021 and until Christ returns.
2. **Prepare the Way for the Lord** the calling of every Christian and yet it fulfills the prophecy of **Isaiah 40:3-5**
3. **Making straight paths** is a key element with a connection to **Proverbs 3:5-6**

***Luke 3:5** Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

***Luke 3:6** And all people will see God's salvation.' "

1. **Luke 3:7-9** A clear warning that the axe of judgement is already at the trees root.
2. **Luke 3:10-14** Instruction on baby steps of obedience for those who repent. The main idea is stop your sinning in the practices or routine of your everyday life.

***Luke 3:15** The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

1. **John was the forerunner** of Jesus Ministry. We are the forerunners of Jesus' second coming.
2. **John's ministry** was never to overshadow Jesus Ministry to the world.
3. **John's desire** was that he would become less, and Jesus would become more.

More Prophecies are Being Fulfilled

Malachi 3:1-4 This passage has prophetic messages within a prophetic message. This points to John the Baptist coming, but it also points to a ministry before Jesus second return when he comes to purify the world and reign from it.

***Luke 3:16** John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come,
*the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.