

Matthew 3:1-12

“Prepare The Way”

Introduction

- *Mark: Gospel of the servant; written for Roman readers.*
- *Luke: as the perfect Son of Man, for the Greeks.*
- *John, much later was universal presented Him as the Son of God.*
- *Matthew*
 - *only one of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) to have an apostolic author*
 - *wrote to his fellow Jews, presenting Jesus as the king and promised Messiah.*

Introduction – Wiersbe Breakdown On “Doing and Teaching”

Narrative	Teaching	Transition
1-4	5-7	7:28
8:1-9:34	9:35-10:42	11:1
11:2-12:50	13:1-52	13:53
13:53-17:27	18:1-35	19:1
19:1-23:39	24:1-25:46	26:1
26:1-28:20	Passion Narrative	

Introduction – Wiersbe Breakdown On Six Major Messages

- **Sermon on the Mount (5-7)**
- **Charge to the Apostles (10)**
- **Parables of the Kingdom (13)**
- **Lesson on Forgiveness (18)**
- **Denunciation of the Pharisees (23)**
- **Mount of Olives (24-25)**

Introduction – Prominent Jewish Groups of the Time

- **Pharisees – original back to the Bible guys, concentrated on the Law of Moses and religious tradition**
- **Essenes – segregated themselves to isolated areas, devoted themselves to holiness**
- **Zealots – armed resistance against Rome, and any collaborators, drawing inspiration from the successful Maccabean revolt a few centuries before.**

Introduction – Prominent Jewish Groups of the Time

- **Sadducees – A minority group that held most of the political and religious power.**
 - **Temple priests,**
 - **Aligned themselves with Rome believing Roman culture would become the status quo.**
 - **chief priest was often assigned by Rome instead of being chosen as biblically prescribed.**
- **Common people – largest group. Belonged to none of these groups. Very often observant in their faith, but more invested in daily living.**

Introduction

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

11/24 Memory Verse

11/24 Memory Verse

Psalm 2:1,4

1) Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

... 4) He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

1-2

**Repent, for the Kingdom of
God is at Hand**

1-2 - REPENT

FIRST WORD OF THE GOSPEL

- ◆ John the Baptist's gospel (Matthew 3:1-2).
- ◆ Jesus' gospel (Matthew 4:17 and Mark 1:14-15).
- ◆ Preaching ministry of the twelve disciples (Mark 6:12).
- ◆ Preaching instructions Jesus gave to His disciples after His resurrection (Luke 24:46-47).
- ◆ Exhortation at the birth of the church (Acts 2:38).
- ◆ Apostle Paul through his ministry (Acts 26:19-20).

3-4

Comfort My People

3-4 – Comfort My People

Isaiah 40:1-3

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God.

"Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

3-4 – Comfort My People

John the Baptist and Elijah the Prophet

- **2 Kings 1:8 – patterned after Elijah**

3-4 – Comfort My People

John the Baptist and Elijah the Prophet

- **2 Kings 1:8 – patterned after Elijah**
- **Malachi 4:5 – Elijah prophesied as a sign before “the great and dreadful day of the LORD”**

3-4 – Comfort My People

John the Baptist and Elijah the Prophet

- **2 Kings 1:8 – patterned after Elijah**
- **Malachi 4:5 – Elijah prophesied as a sign before “the great and dreadful day of the LORD”**
- **Luke 1:17 – John “will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah”, quoting Malachi 4:5 prophesied to his father when he was an unborn child.**

3-4 – Comfort My People

John the Baptist and Elijah the Prophet

- **2 Kings 1:8 – patterned after Elijah**
- **Malachi 4:5 – Elijah prophesied as a sign before “the great and dreadful day of the LORD”**
- **Luke 1:17 – John “will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah”, quoting Malachi 4:5 prophesied to his father when he was an unborn child.**
- **Matthew 11:14 – Jesus identified him as the coming of Elijah**

5-6

Israel's Response

7-12

Flee the Wrath to Come

7-12 – Flee the Wrath to Come

“John the Baptist is sadly needed to-day. Much of what we call Christianity is but christianized heathenism...we need that John the Baptist should come with his stern words about the axe, the winnowing-fan, and the fire. Nothing less will avail to prepare the way for a new coming of Christ.”

- FB Meyer (Guzik)

Taking It Home

7-12 – Flee the Wrath to Come

*“...if we listen to the message of Jesus, the fire will burn, and burn to purity, and burn to realization, and burn to crowning.
– G Campbell Morgan*

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 40:3

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
"prepare the way of the LORD; make
straight in the desert a highway for our God.*