

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible  
Current Book: John – verse by verse

**Scriptures for Today: John 1:15-28 – The voice of one crying in the wilderness!**

Today's Message:

**"A Prophetic Voice"**



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned how Jesus Christ is the living tabernacle! God had something much bigger planned than a *tent* in the wilderness! Isaiah prophesied of a son called "*Immanuel*" or GOD WITH US. Today, we will learn more of *the forerunner* of Jesus Christ – John the Baptist. Now here was a man who was **BORN** to bring God glory! Isaiah had prophesied of him 700 years before his birth, and his dad was foretold of his birth directly by an **ANGEL**. Amazingly, John leaped in his mom's womb when she met Mary (also with child)! It will be evident from our passage John understood his great privilege. He was truly blessed to prepare God's people for His Lord's **ARRIVAL**. This is God's message to you...

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### A. The Text John 1:15-28

#### #1. The OT Prophecy – Isaiah prophesied of a "**VOICE**" crying in the wilderness.

JOHN BARE WITNESS OF HIM, AND **CRIED**, SAYING, THIS IS HE OF WHOM I SPAKE

- ✓ John the Baptist was sent from God to bare **WITNESS** of the true Light – Jesus Christ.
  - **John 1:6** – "There was a man SENT FROM GOD, whose name was John."
  - **John 1:7** – "The same came for a WITNESS, to BEAR WITNESS of the Light..."
  - **John 1:8** – "He was not that Light, but was SENT to BEAR WITNESS of that Light."

HE SAID, I AM **THE VOICE** OF ONE **CRYING** IN THE WILDERNESS

- ✓ Isaiah prophesied of a forerunner to the arrival of the Jewish Messiah.
  - **Isa 40:3** – "The voice of him...crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD."
  - Isaiah has 66 chapters like the books of the Bible; Matthew is the **40<sup>th</sup>** book of the Bible.

#### #2. The Birth of a Prophet – the law and the prophets were **UNTIL** John.

THIS WAS HE OF WHOM I SPAKE, HE THAT **COMETH AFTER ME**

- ✓ The Bible says that John the Baptist was the **LAST** prophet of the Old Testament.
  - In **Mt 11:13**, the Bible says, "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John."
  - **Lk 16:16** – "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time... kingdom of God"

**2023 VISION:** Hold the Fort!  
Making disciples and caring for souls!

**Important Note**  
Although he is known as John "the Baptist" ... there is more emphasis first to his witness.

**Luke 1:76**  
*And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways.*

- ✓ The events leading up to and surrounding his birth were miraculous and unique!
  - The majority of **Luke 1:1-80** is all about John and the foretelling of Jesus’ birth.
  - In **Luke 1:5-25**, his mom and dad were faithful to God; his birth foretold by an angel.
  - In **Luke 1:39-45**, Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost, and John leaped in her womb!
  - In **Luke 1:57-80**, he was called *John* by his mom; his father prophesied great things!

**#3. The Voice in the Wilderness – John was ready to go when God SENT him!**

HE THAT COMETH AFTER ME IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME: FOR HE WAS BEFORE ME

**John 1:1-2**  
*In the beginning was the Word... the same was in the beginning with God.*

- ✓ John understood both his privilege and his place; he was truly a **HUMBLE** servant.
  - **John 1:27** – “He it is, who coming after me is PREFERRED BEFORE ME... whose *shoe’s latchet* I am NOT WORTHY to unloose.”
  - **John 3:20** – “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

**Important Note**  
 John understood the pre-existence of Jesus Christ!

AND OF **HIS FULNESS** HAVE ALL WE RECEIVED, AND **GRACE FOR GRACE**

**Important Note**  
 John mentions GRACE only 3 times in his gospel... **John 1:14, 16, and 17.**

- ✓ The law was given by Moses, but *grace and truth* came by Jesus Christ.
  - **Genesis 6:8** – “But **Noah** found GRACE in the eyes of the LORD.”
  - **Ex 33:12** – “**Moses** said... Yet thou hast said... thou hast also found GRACE in my sight.”
  - **Ruth 2:2** – “Then she fell on her face... and said... **Why have I found GRACE in thine eyes?**”
  - **2Cor 3:11** – “For if that... done away was glorious, **much more** that... remaineth is glorious”

NO MAN HATH **SEEN GOD** AT ANY TIME

**Important Note**  
 The Jehovah’s FALSE Witnesses use this to try to disprove *the deity of Christ*.

**W1828 “Seen”**  
*Beheld; observed; understood; perceived.*

- ✓ Jesus Christ came to *declare* **GOD** – all of Him!
  - **Coloss 1:15** – “Who is the **IMAGE of the invisible God...**” **Jn 1:1-2; 5:37; 14:7, 9; 15:24**
  - **Heb 1:3** – “Who being *the brightness of his glory, and the express IMAGE of his person...*”

THIS IS **THE RECORD OF JOHN**, WHEN THE JEWS SENT... ASK HIM, **WHO ART THOU?**

**Deut 18:15**  
*The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet... like unto me.*

- ✓ The Jewish Pharisees sent priests and Levites to ask **WHO** John really was?
  - **John 1:20** – “And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, **I am not the Christ.**”
  - **John 1:21** – “And they asked him, **What then? Art thou Elias?** And he saith, I am not.”
  - **John 1:21** – “**Art thou that prophet?** And he answered, No.”
  - **John 1:22** – “Then said they unto him, **Who art thou?** that we may give an answer...”

**Mal 4:5**  
*Behold, I will send you **Elijah**...*

HE SAID, **I AM THE VOICE** OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS ... Amen! Amen!

**John 15:14-15**  
*Ye are my friends... but I have called you friends...*

- ✓ John rejoiced to hear the VOICE of the bridegroom – he was the groom’s **FRIEND**!
  - **Jn 3:29-30** – “He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but *the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s VOICE:* **THIS MY JOY THEREFORE IS FULFILLED.** *He must increase, but I must decrease.*”

**Luke 7:28** – “For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: **but he that is LEAST in the kingdom of God is greater than he.**”

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*Making disciples and caring for souls!*