

# The King Has Come

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## Preparing the Way

God's sovereignty

Hosea 11:1 “Out of Egypt I called my son”

5 explicit prophecies mentioned in Matthew 1 & 2.

**Matthew 2:16-18 (ESV)** 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Reference to Jeremiah 31:15.

Approximately 25 years pass and we meet John the Baptist.

**Matthew 3:1-2 (ESV)** 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Repent – Repentance means a change of mind, attitude and direction—turning away from sin and toward God.

Repentance is not a one-time act but a lifestyle of surrender and transformation.

**Matthew 3:3 (ESV)** For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

**Matthew 3:5-6 (ESV)** 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

## **John's Baptism:**

- Repentance and preparation for the Messiah
- Confession of sin and readiness for God's kingdom

## **New Testament Baptism:**

- Identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection
- Obedience, discipleship, and incorporation into the body of Christ
- It represented spiritual regeneration, new life, and indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- Commanded by Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20)

**Matthew 3:7-8** 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

**Matthew 3:9-10 (ESV)** 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**Matthew 3:11-12 (ESV)** 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

- **Holy Spirit** - that purifies the believer to refine us as silver and Gold.
- **Fire** – Not Pentecostal fire. Judgment for those who fail to respond in repentance. Real fire, not metaphorical.
- **Fork** – separates the wheat and chaff. Separating and refining the repentant and judging the unrepentant.

**Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV)** 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."