

Fulfilling Prophecy, Power, and Personal Ministry

Born to Be

John 3:1-22

3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,² while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, **the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.**³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; ⁶ And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

- 1. The prophecy of John ended, and the power of God through faith led John into his personal ministry with the Holy Spirit.**

7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “**Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘**We have Abraham as our father.**’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.⁹ And even now the **ax is laid to the root of the trees.** Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

- 2. John preached with the power of God’s true words, with conviction, and about God’s judgement.**

10 So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?” **11** He answered and said to them, “**He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.**”

¹² Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, **“Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”**

¹⁴ Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So he said to them, **“Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”**

¹⁵ Now as **the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not,** ¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, **“I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** ¹⁷ His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, ²⁰ also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.

3. John teaches the truth on how to live a Godly life to each individual who he encounterd. He preached truth even when he was under the scrutiny of Herod.

²¹ When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

4. Even when John did not understand why he was to baptize Jesus, he baptized Him because that is what Jesus said to do.

John did not just become, he just was who Christ called him to be. No complaints, no waiting around! He just said yes to the Lord even more than his earthly parents did. Will you say yes to God’s plan for your life?