

Message of the Forerunner

Week 13; **Luke 3:1-14**

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, 2 in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

Why is all this information given – what is Luke trying to establish? _____

What does it mean, "...the word of God came to John"?

Compare this to "The Word" in John Chapter 1. _____

3 And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS,

'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD,

MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.

5'EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED,

AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE BROUGHT LOW;

THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT,

AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH;

6 AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.'"

(See **Isaiah 40:3-5**) What is this talking about? _____

For next time, **Water and Spirit Baptism Luke 3:15-18**

7 So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from **the wrath to come?**

What "wrath" is John referring to? _____

8 "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ' We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

How does this compare to Jesus instruction later in Matthew 7:15-21?

9 "Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." (See **Isaiah 10:33-34...**)

What is John saying to those who had come to his "baptism service"?

Is it likely to encourage people to bring others? _____

10 And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what shall we do?" [Compare this with **Acts 2:37**] 11 And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."

What remedy did John give people for the dilemma of the coming judgment? Does that apply to us? How?

12 And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to."

14 Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And what about us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages."

Are these just directions for being moral? Was John preaching legalism? _____

What would you have told them, and why would it be any different today? _____

Was John's message "the Gospel"? If not, why not, and what is the "Gospel", then? _____
