

A Voice Introducing Messiah Isaiah 40:1-5 & John 1:19-34

I. A Voice to Comfort – Isa. 40:1-2

1. Israel has struggled under Gentile Kings – 1
This has happened because of their sins
They have departed from God & worshipped strange gods
2. As God had warned, Gentile nations have come
Tribal division came after Solomon's departure
10 tribes of Israel worshiped Jeroboam's golden calves
Assyria came to take 10 tribes into captivity
3. Assyria attacked Jerusalem, surrounding the city
God destroyed that army as Isaiah & Hezekiah prayed
4. God now comforts His people in Judah – 2
Victory will come and their sin will be pardoned

A Voice to Point to Messiah – 40:3-5

1. A voice cries in the wilderness – 3
Away from the established leaders
Calling out for repentance – Prepare for Messiah
2. Much change is needed to prepare for Him – 4
A level path is needed to prepare for His coming
3. God will reveal His glory in Messiah – 5
God will speak truth through His Messiah
4. Messiah comes to restore fellowship with God
By offering Himself as full atonement for our sins

II. That Voice is John – Jn. 1:19-28

1. Leaders seek information from John – 19
His preaching & baptisms have stirred things
Leaders of the Jews ask "Who are you?"
Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem
2. They suggest some possibilities – 20-21
Are you Christ (Messiah) – John replied "no"
Are you Elijah (promised in Mal. 4:5) – "no"
Are you "The Prophet" (Deut. 18:15) – "no"
3. Who are you? – We need an answer – 22-23
"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness"
"Make straight the way of the Lord as prophet Isaiah said"
4. Why then are you baptizing? – 24-25
They were sent from the Pharisees to ask
5. John points to the One who is coming – 26-27
John's baptism is to help people prepare
One is coming whom you do not know
"The strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie"
6. John the Baptist's ministry was on the other side of Jordan – 28
In the wilderness, away from the religious leaders
Demonstrating their lack of preparation for coming Messiah

III. The Voice Identifies Jesus – 1:29-34

1. He points to Jesus as the Lamb of God – 29
He is the "One who takes away the sin of the world"
This is Christ's ministry to deal with the sins of the world
To sacrifice Himself as the Lamb of God
Here is the One offering for sin that God accepts
And this is provided for the sins of the world
2. This is the One who far outranks John – 30
Because He was before me
He is the eternal Son of God, The Creator of all things
- Jn. 1:1-3
3. God identified His Son to John in baptism – 31-34
John confesses that He did not fully know Jesus – 31
Baptizing Jesus was a sign to Israel that Jesus was God's Son
4. John's testimony about Jesus – 32-34
"I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove and it remained on Him" - 32
"I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me" – 33
"He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit"
"And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God" - 34
5. The other Gospels record that a voice from heaven spoke
Matthew 3:17 says and behold, a voice from heaven said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
Mark 1:11 and Luke 3:22 record the same as Mathew

