

## A Voice Crying

**Mark 1:2-8**

## Israel's Hope

- Gen. 3:15 –I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.“
- Matthew 2:4 –Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, [Herod] inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

## Israel's Hope

- Luke 2:38 – Anna spoke of Him “to all those who were looking for the redemption of Israel”
- Luke 3:15 – Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ,
- John 1:19-25 – An expectation among the people of the coming Messiah
- John 1:41 –He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ).

## Israel's Hope

- John 4:25, 29 – Even the Samaritans were expecting the Messiah.
- John 7:25-53 – The people were expecting the Messiah.
- John 8:56 – “Abraham rejoiced to see my day.”
- John 12:34 - The crowd then answered Him, “We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”
- Acts 2:30-31 – David “looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Christ”

## Israel's Hope

- Heb. 11:24-26—Moses chooses Christ over the riches of Egypt.
- 1 Pet. 1:10-12 – The prophets understood that salvation would come through the Messiah.
- Mal. 3:1 - "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

## The Credentials of Messiah

- 1) The OT Prophecy of the Forerunner (2-3)
- 2) The 1st Century Fulfillment of the Forerunner (4-8)

The Old  
Testament  
Prophecy of the  
Forerunner (2-3)

The Prophecy

- Mark 1:2-3 are a collage of two OT texts:
  - Verse 2 = Mal. 3:1
  - Verse 3 = Is. 40:3
- Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6
- Is. 40:1-5

The 1st Century  
Fulfillment of  
the Forerunner  
(4-8)

A Glimpse of the Man (4a)

- “John the Baptist appeared”
- Who was this man?
  - His parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth, were devout OT believers (Luke 1:5-6).
  - His father was a Levite, actively serving during his rotation at the Temple (Luke 1:8-9).
  - The angel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that he and Elizabeth would have a son in their old age.
  - And they were to name him John.
  - John was a common Jewish name, meaning “the one to whom YHWH is gracious.”
  - After his birth, we don’t hear anything from him until Luke 3:2 - the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

A Glimpse of the Man (4a)

- When did he appear?
  - John was 6 months older than Christ (Luke 1:26).
  - Jesus began his ministry about the age of thirty.
  - That means so did John.
  - It was probably in the spring of 26 AD that John appeared.
- He appeared “in the wilderness.”
  - Matt. tells that it was the wilderness of Judea (Matt. 3:1).
  - It was the rugged land west of the Jordan and the Dead Sea, extending up toward Jerusalem.
  - It was barren, rugged, without trees, and desperately dry.



## A Summary of His Ministry (4b)

- His Method: “preaching”
  - The Greek word is a familiar NT word.
  - It’s *kerusso*.
  - It means “to proclaim as a herald.”

## Preaching

- The same word is used of Jesus.
  - Mark 1:14
- Jesus said that it was one of the key reasons He came.
  - Mark 1:38
- Jesus chooses His disciples to do the same thing.
  - Mark 3:14; 6:12
- Jesus commanded that His followers preach throughout the whole world.
  - Mark 13:10
- He assumes that it will happen.
  - Mark 14:9
- And again He commands that it happen.
  - Mark 16:10
- In Paul’s letters intended for pastors, it’s commanded of all NT elders.
  - 2 Tim. 4:1-2

## A Summary of His Ministry (4b)

- The Inward Requirement: “repentance”
  - Matt. 3:1-2 - Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
  - Cf. Matt. 3:7-10; Luke 3:7-14

## A Summary of His Ministry (4b)

- The Outward Sign: “a baptism of repentance”
  - Ritual Washings (Mikveh’s)

## A Mikveh



## Proselyte Baptism

- By the time of Jesus, if a Gentile wanted to become a true proselyte to Judaism, with full standing as a child of the covenant, had to do three things:
  - *Qorban* – a sacrifice; a burnt offering
  - *Milah* – circumcision (if a man)
  - *Tebhilah* – baptism

## John's Baptism

- Luke 3:1-3, 7-9, 10-17 – John's baptism was a "baptism of repentance".
- It was a proselyte baptism—but for Jews!
- According to Acts 19, John's baptism wasn't Xn baptism.

## Jesus & His disciples' Baptism

- John 3:26 – Jesus and his disciples baptized
- Cf. John 4:2 – but Jesus himself was not doing the baptizing.

## A Summary of His Ministry (4b)

- The Spiritual Result: "for the forgiveness of sins"
  - Hiebert: "the physical rite itself did not produce this spiritual result. But submission to the baptism as the outward testimony of personal repentance was the condition for receiving the divine forgiveness."
  - How could this forgiveness be possible?
    - John 1:29 - The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"