

# Matthew 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

## Analysis

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John the Baptist appears 'in those days' after approximately 30 years of silence since chapter 2, introducing Jesus' public ministry. His preaching 'in the wilderness of Judaea' fulfills Isaiah 40:3 and deliberately evokes memories of Israel's wilderness formation as God's people. The wilderness setting symbolizes separation from religious establishment and call to genuine repentance.

## Historical Context

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The Judean wilderness is a barren, rocky desert between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. John's ministry began around 26-27 AD during Tiberius Caesar's reign. His desert location forced people to make a deliberate journey, demonstrating serious intent.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What 'wilderness' experiences has God used to prepare you for service?

2. How does John's example of faithful preparation challenge your own ministry?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐν δὲ ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις παραγίνεται Ἰωάννης ὁ  
in In G3588 days those came John G3588  
G1722 G1161 G2250 G1565 G3854 G2491

βαπτιστὴς κηρύσσων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ τῇ Ἰουδαίας  
the Baptist preaching in G3588 the wilderness G3588 G2449  
G910 G2784 G1722 G2048 G2449

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 1:76** (Parallel theme): And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

**Matthew 11:11** (References John): Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Mark 1:15** (Parallel theme): And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

**Matthew 16:14** (References John): And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

**Acts 1:22** (References John): Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

**Matthew 3:8** (Parallel theme): Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

**Matthew 11:7** (References John): And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

**Luke 7:24** (References John): And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

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