

Matthew 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

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

ἐν	δὲ	ταῖς	ἡμέραις	ἐκείναις	παραγίνεται	Ἰωάννης	ὁ
in	In	G3588	days	those	came	John	G3588
G1722	G1161		G2250	G1565	G3854	G2491	
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βαπτιστῆς	κηρύσσων	ἐν	τῇ	ἐρήμῳ	τῆς	Ἰουδαίας	
the Baptist	preaching	in	G3588	the wilderness	G3588	of Judaea	
G910	G2784	G1722		G2048		G2449	

Additional Cross-References

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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