

The Prophet Has Come

Luke 3:1–6

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

Main Point: John was the herald prophesied from centuries before who would come to prepare the way for the coming of the King. Will we prepare people for the coming of the King?

Realities about the prophet:

I. The Timing was *Providential*

- A. Tiberius Ceasar—15th year (c. 28/29 A.D.)
- B. Herod Antipas (son of Herod the Great who killed all the infants)
- C. Annas was not the High Priest; his son-in-law Caiaphas was High Priest. However, Annas’ influence was so great many considered him to still be the High Priest

II. The Ministry was to *Prepare*

- A. Repentance
- B. Remission of Sins

III. The Coming was *Prophetic*

A. Quoted in Isaiah 40:3–5

B. Dignitaries and kings sent people ahead of them to clear the road of any debris so as to prepare the way for the coming of the king

IV. The Result was *Purposeful*