



# Preparation For Glorious Manifestation

**“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father...” (Matthew 3:8,9).**

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“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire” (Matthew 3:1-10).

Many years has passed between the events recorded in Matthew chapter 2 and those in chapter 3. At the close of chapter 2, Jesus was still a young boy, but at the beginning of Chapter He was a grown up man of 30 years old. The period in between were the ‘silent years’ as there are no records in the Bible of what transpired in them, but they were years of preparation for His ministry.

One of the principles of success is that “Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance”. It is the years of preparation that determines the level of success. Those years of preparation were coming to an end. Shortly, the glory of God would be manifested through Jesus’ life, and prophecy would be fulfilled that “The people that sat in darkness saw great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up” (Matthew 4:16; Isaiah 9:2).

For the manifestation of God’s glory to really benefit the people to whom it was intended, God turned His attention to prepare the recipients, in fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah 40:3-5 - “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the**

**“And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2)**

**way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it”.** Our text presents a fulfilment of this prophecy, where John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, prepares Israel for their Messiah.

God is preparing for you a manifestation of His glory for your life in the coming days, and if you are to benefit from it, you must heed the message of preparing yourself for what God has prepared for you. Note the salient points in John’s message to us all:

- 1) John’s preaching was in the ‘wilderness’, but this did not underate the power and importance of God’s message to the people. Neither the environment of his preaching (vs 1) not his ‘basic’ clothing (vs4) should distract from the essence of God’s;
- 2) “Repent... for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” (vs 2). Time is short, repentance must be immediate;
- 3) Reminder of his mission and the prophecy that was being literally fulfilled in their eyes, but they were spiritually too blind to recognise, though they had been preaching and expecting the coming of the Messiah (vs 3)
- 4) John was not fooled by the external response of the people but demanded genuine repentance with irrefutable evidence (vs 5-10).

Future participation in God’s glory depends upon your willingness to repent, change and bring forth good fruit meet for repentance, otherwise face divine judgement from God’s axe already laid unto the root of every tree.