

Notes for Matthew 3:1-3

Hebrew & Greek pronunciation spelled phonetically

A GREAT WAY TO SERVE GOD, YOUR FELLOW MAN AND YOUR CHURCH IS TO INVITE SOMEBODY TO CHURCH HERE AT GCC AND THEY MIGHT JUST BECOME PART OF OUR FAMILY!

Malachi 3:1 - *Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare 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.*

Malachi 4:5 - *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.*

Luke 1:17 - *and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.*

The wilderness of Judea (where John was) is an arid escarpment desert west of the Jordan river sloping toward the Dead Sea. Very similar to Death Valley or the Salton Valley

Exodus chapters 16-17 & Deuteronomy 8:2-5: story of Israelites in Wilderness

1 Samuel chapters 23-26: Story of David in his wilderness hiding from King Saul and being prepared by the Lord for his Kingship.

Believers are like the 6-million-dollar man, Steve Austin! God will rebuild us! Better. Faster. Stronger.

James 1:2-3 - *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*

2 Corinthians 13:5 - *Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*

Acts 2:38 - *And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 14:4 - *Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master[a] that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

Matthew 7:3-5 - *Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

1 John 1:8 - *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

Isaiah 40:3 - *A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. We want to prepare the way for the Lord in our own lives. We do that by removing the obstacles - the dips and bumps that make our path to serving God rougher than it should be.

Be a Trailblazer like John the Baptist. Prepare your way. This week, find - and work to remove - just one habit that hinders your obedience to God.

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JOHN 1:19-23

- AND THIS IS THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN, WHEN THE JEWS SENT PRIESTS AND LEVITES FROM JERUSALEM TO ASK HIM, “WHO ARE YOU?” 20 HE CONFESSED, AND DID NOT DENY, BUT CONFESSED, “I AM NOT THE CHRIST.” 21 AND THEY ASKED HIM, “WHAT THEN? ARE YOU ELIJAH?” HE SAID, “I AM NOT.” “ARE YOU THE PROPHET?” AND HE ANSWERED, “NO.” 22 SO THEY SAID TO HIM, “WHO ARE YOU? WE NEED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO THOSE WHO SENT US. WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT YOURSELF?” 23 HE SAID, “I AM THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE STRAIGHT[A] THE WAY OF THE LORD,’ AS THE PROPHET ISAIAH SAID.”

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