



## MATTHEW 3:1-12

### Introduction

- The words “In those days” in Matthew 3:1 represent a time jump of approximately 30 years from the events of Matthew 1-2. The only story we know from Jesus’ childhood is Luke’s account of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus visiting Jerusalem for the Passover (Luke 2:41-52, 3:1-2).
- Matthew doesn’t tell us John’s backstory, but Luke does (Luke 1-2). There is speculation that Zechariah and Elizabeth died while John was still relatively young and that John was raised by the Essenes.

### The Big Idea

- John the Baptist (Baptizer) was sent to \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament prophecy and \_\_\_\_\_ the way for Jesus the Christ.

“The fulfillment of these prophecies could hardly have been left out, and by introducing John as their exact fulfillment, Matthew rightly ties together the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament. There had not been a prophet in Israel for four hundred years, since Malachi. But after four

hundred silent years, the flow of God's revelation starts again as Matthew picks up precisely where Malachi had left off." (James Montgomery Boice, *The Gospel of Matthew*)

### What do we need to know about John the Baptist (Baptizer)?

- John was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Isaiah 40:3 (Matthew 3:1-3 ... Isaiah 40:1-5).
- John was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Malachi 3:1-2 and 4:5-6 (Matthew 3:4-6, 11:14, 17:12 ... 2 Kings 1:8, 2:1-14).
- John called people to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 3:2 ... Mark 1:14-15, Acts 2:37-38).

"Conversion involves turning from sin and turning to God. This is another way of saying that conversion entails repentance and faith ... Repentance in the Christian life is twofold. We must distinguish between repentance as turning to Christ in an act of saving faith, and repentance in the ongoing life of Christian discipleship. Martin Luther famously began his Ninety-Five Theses by insisting that the entire life of believers is to be one of repentance. Repentance is necessary in becoming a Christian, and it is necessary in living as a Christian ... Notice that pair: repent and believe. The two are virtually synonymous in the New Testament, not that the words mean the same thing, but that they are signs of the same Spirit-prompted work ... Strictly speaking, the proper response to the gospel involves both faith and repentance (Matt. 21:32; Acts 20:21). If only one item in the pair is mentioned — which happens often in the New Testament — we should realize that the other half is assumed. You can't really believe without also repenting, and you haven't really repented if you don't also believe." (Kevin DeYoung, *Daily Doctrine*)

- John spoke about the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven (Matthew 3:2).
- John warned people about a coming \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 3:7-10).
- John \_\_\_\_\_ those who repented and believed (Matthew 3:11-12 ... 1 Corinthians 10:2, 1 Peter 3:18-22).
- John pointed people to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 3:11-12 ... John 3:30).

### Application

- Have I \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?
- Have I been \_\_\_\_\_?
- Am I bearing \_\_\_\_\_ in keeping with repentance?
- Am I \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus?