



The Voice and Look of a True Prophet

Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:1-20

1. Setting: Between AD 26 and AD 29
2. John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness to preach
 - a. Called for repentance...demanded an about-face
 - b. Crying...a passionate and urgent voice
 - c. In wilderness...in a desolate wasteland
 - d. Made mountains low...humbled the proud
 - e. Filled ravines...preached truth where it lacked
 - f. Made crooked ways straight...corrected false teaching
 - g. Smoothed rough roads...brought comfort concerning the Christ
 - h. Offered salvation to all .
 - i. Called slaves of sin a "brood of vipers" (Gen 3:1-5, 13-15; John 8:44; 2 Cor 11:3; 1 John 3:10; Rev 12:9, 20:2)
 - j. Spoke of God's wrath
 - k. Spoke of fruit in keeping with repentance
 - l. Warned of the fire for those who refused to repent
 - m. Humbled his ministry as one who merely pointed to the Christ
 - n. Was hated and murdered for his preaching
3. Thoughts about John the Baptist
 - a. Would be highly criticized as a pastor today
 - b. Lifestyle and words represent a true prophet
 - c. Jesus said he was the greatest of men (Matt. 11:11)
 - d. Lived only to mid-30's