

Matthew 3 - The King's Messenger & Baptism

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I. The Kings Messenger

hx: John the Baptist bursts on the scene preaching repentance to the nation Israel. His mission is to get the Jews ready for the Messiah and His kingdom, John 1:31. His method is *preaching in the wilderness* (v 1) and *baptizing with water* (v 11). His manner is like that of Elijah the prophet, 2 Kings 1:8, (a) in his dress and (b) in his spirit : i.e. hard Bible preaching and rebuking corrupt leaders (v 7 & 10).

spir : For the past 20 centuries Baptists have been the most faithful to the New Testament. They preach *repentance* on the streets (*in the wilderness*), they dress in regular street clothes (not religious robes), and will rebuke corrupt leaders (both religious and political). They endeavor to get listeners ready for the Messiah and His Kingdom.

doct: *the kingdom of heaven* (32x) - the phrase is found only in Matthew (Jewish Gospel)
It is a earthly kingdom ruled by the laws of heaven that was started by God through Moses, Deu 11: 7-12, 18 - 21 & 26 : 16 - 19.

The kingdom of heaven is not the church.

John the Baptist was making an honest offer to the nation to receive their Messiah and his kingdom. Had they accepted the offer, God would have begun the 7 year tribulation after Christ's resurrection and then ushered in the kingdom with his Son's return. However, the Jews rejected their Messiah for forty years (30 - 70 AD) so God sent His Gospel to the Gentiles, Acts 28: 23 - 29.

Today the Church carries the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world, *and when the fulness of the Gentiles comes in, all Israel shall be saved...and resurrected and reign with Christ a thousand years*, Rom 11:25-26, Rev 20:6.

v 1 John the Baptist (14 x : Mt 6x; Mk 4x ; Lk 4x)
the wilderness of Judea - in the title of Psalm 63

v 2 Repent ye - the call to repentance is personal, individual
Repent - hx: 2 Kings 17:13 2 Chr 30:6
 spir: Acts 20:21 1 Thes 1:9
the kingdom...is at hand hx: John 1:31, 34-37
 spir: Col 1 :13

v 3 = Isaiah 40:3

note: Matthew is book 40 and this is chapter 3 .

The order of the 66 books was set in the King James Holy Bible, as were the chapter numbers the Miracle of God's Book !!!