

1. What was John the Baptist's mission?

Look at what the angel said to his father :Luke 1:13-17

Look at what John said of himself: John 1:23

Look at the prophecies: Isaiah 40:3-4 Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6

John's work was to prepare the way for the coming king

2. How did John fulfil his mission?

C.f. Matthew 3:5-7 People of all classes came to see and hear him.

They are to repent and change their ways: Luke 3:10-14

He baptizes them—meaning they are willing to give up their sins and receive the coming king—God is ready to receive, pardon and cleanse them.

Some turn away offended: Luke 7:30

3. What was the result of John's mission?

John was very popular: Luke 20:6

Where did Jesus get his first disciples? John 1:35-42

When John was killed where did his disciples go?

Matthew 14:12

To whom did Jesus appeal when defending himself?

John 5:32-35

What impression was made by John upon the people who lived near the Jordan? John 10:40-42

When John's disciples who had gone into distant lands, afterwards heard Christ's gospel, how did they receive it?

Acts 18:24-28, 19:1-16

So the voice crying in the wilderness was heard long after and far away!

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Advent Promise A Bible Study Study Three —Looking In

Study Text— Luke 3:1-18

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.

Readings: Luke 3:1-18

Matthew 3:1-12

Collect for Advent 3

O Lord Jesus Christ who at thy first coming didst end thy messenger to prepare the way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise, so prepare and make ready thy way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy spirit; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

Introduction

30 years since the wise men visited—18 years since the boy Jesus startled the Rabbis in the temple with his youthful wisdom—perhaps all of this forgotten.

A strange man appears in the wilderness of Judea.

Dressed like the prophets of old—c.f. 2 Kings 1:8, Zechariah 13:4

A Nazarite—Matthew 3:4, Luke 1:15 Numbers 6

Proclaiming that the kingdom of God is at hand.

The people flock to see and hear him