

Adonai, Yahweh, Jehovah, The One True God, The God of Israel, The Lord of Hosts, The King of Israel, The One and Only True God, The Righteous Word of God Almighty, The Sacrificial Lamb, The Lion of the

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the beginning and the ending, The First and the Last,  
The Only Real, Living and Breathing God, He Who Is,  
He Who Was, and He Who Will Be Forever, Abba  
Father, Our Creator, Our God, Our Soul's Beloved, God

# **The Life and Times of Jesus Christ**

## **Part 2**

# **A Voice Shouting in the Wilderness**

# **Luke 3:1a - NTV**

**It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee;**

# **Luke 3:1b**

**his brother Philip was ruler over  
Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was  
ruler over Abilene.**



## **Luke 3:2**

**Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness.**

# **Matthew 3:1**

**In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was,**

# **Matthew 3:2**

**“Repent of your sins and turn  
to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven  
is near.”**

# Matthew 3:4

John's clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.



## **Luke 3:3**

**Then John went from place to place  
on both sides of the Jordan River,  
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Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, “He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him!’”

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The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth.



# Luke 3:6

And then all people will see the  
salvation sent from God.””



# **Matthew 3:5**

**People from Jerusalem and from  
all of Judea and all over the  
Jordan Valley went out to see  
and hear John.**

# **Matthew 3:6**

**And when they confessed their sins,  
he baptized them in the Jordan River.**

## **Luke 3:8a**

**Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.'**

# **Luke 3:7**

**When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, “You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?”**



# **Luke 3:8b**

**That means nothing, for I tell you,  
God can create children of Abraham  
from these very stones.**

## **Luke 3:9**

**Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."**

# Luke 3:10

The crowds asked,  
“What should we do?”



# Luke 3:11

John replied, “If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.”



# **Luke 3:12**

**Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, “Teacher, what should we do?”**

# Luke 3:13

He replied, “Collect no more taxes  
than the government requires.”

# Luke 3:14

**“What should we do?” asked some soldiers. John replied, “Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.”**



# **Luke 3:15**

**Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah.**



## **Luke 3:16a**

**John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—**

# **Luke 3:16b**

**so much greater that I'm not even  
worthy to be his slave and untie  
the straps of his sandals. He will  
baptize you with the Holy Spirit  
and with fire.**

# **Luke 3:17**

**He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”**



# **Luke 3:18**

**John used many such warnings  
as he announced the Good News  
to the people.**



# **Luke 3:19**

**John also publicly criticized Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, his brother's wife, and for many other wrongs he had done.**

# **Luke 3:20**

**So Herod put John in prison,  
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# Principle #1

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# Principle #2

**Without confession and repentance  
there can be no forgiveness of sins.**

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# **Confession *Defined***

**To admit and believe that God is correct regarding what He says about sin. Confession involves identifying things for what they truly are, which is sin, and honestly acknowledging the offenses we have committed.**



# **Repentance *Defined***

**Hebrew: a turning of the heart**

**Greek: a change of mind**

**Genuinely turning away from your sins  
and turning towards God in a way that  
is obvious and easy to see.**

# Repentance Evidence

- Be baptized to show that [you have] repented of [your] sins and turned to God to be forgiven. (v.3)
- Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. (v.8)

# Repentance Evidence

- **Be generous, give to the poor and share with those in need. (v.11)**
- **Do not steal, and do not abuse your power or authority (v.13)**
- **Be content with what you have (v.14)**

# Principle #2

**Without confession and repentance  
there can be no forgiveness of sins.**



# Principle #3

**Like John, one of our responsibilities as messengers of God is to prepare the way for the Lord's coming by helping to remove the obstacles that stand in people's way, keeping them from approaching, knowing, and loving God.**

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**The most important point of John's teaching is not to get baptized but to respond to God with the right kind of heart, mind, spirit, and life.**

# Principle #5

**Wherever and whenever the free gift of God is rejected, tragedy and judgment will take root in its place.**

# Luke 3:9

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**Wherever and whenever the free gift of God is rejected, tragedy and judgment will take root in its place.**

# Principle #6

**God hates sin; whether it is committed  
by believers or unbelievers.**

# Principle #7

**Do not be surprised when a sinner responds with hostility when their sin is called sin. Speaking God's truth is not popular and it may come with personal risks.**



# **Luke 3:19**

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