

Matthew 03

Scriptures:

Notes:

More than twenty years pass
between chapters 2 and three.

Matthew 3:1-17 - The King's Baptism!

Scriptures:

¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in

G2784 - proclaim
with the goal to
persuade, urge,
warn to comply

Notes:
'those days' – What days?

John is the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Elizabeth is related to Mary, Jesus' mother. Jesus and John are cousins. John was born about six months before Jesus.

the wilderness of Judea,

Scriptures:

² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom

G3340 - to reconsider (repent) v. —
to have a change of self (heart and
mind) that abandons former
dispositions and results in a new
self, new behavior, and regret over
former behavior and dispositions.

Notes:
'Repent' – Few words have the
negative connotation that this one
has.

"This message of repentance –
turning from self and sin to God and
grace – is what the world needs."
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of heaven is at hand!"

G3772 – the
abode of God

G1448 - to
approach (time)
v. — to be moving
toward and not
be far distant
from a moment in
time.

This is not a message just for
unbelievers to come to Christ. It is
also for the church to constantly be
moving toward greater and greater
holiness and purity.

In five of the seven letters to the
churches in Revelation 2 and 3, they
were called to repent.

Repentance is not just for people
who are far from God, but also for
people who should be closer to God.

'kingdom of heaven is at hand.' –
How do we know that is true? One
reason is because the King of the
kingdom of heaven has come.

Scriptures:

Isaiah 40:3 -

The voice of one crying in
the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the
LORD;

Make straight in the
desert

A highway for our God.

³ For this is ^{JB}he who was spoken of by the prophet

Notes:

Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the

wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make

^{JB}His paths straight.’ ”

Scriptures:

2 Kings 1:7-8 - Then he said to them, "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?"

8 So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist."

And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

Mark 9:11-13 - And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

12 Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? 13 But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him."

Matthew 11:13-14 - For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.

^{JB} ^{JB}
4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair,

^{JB} ^{JB}
with a leather belt around his waist; and his food

was locusts and wild honey.

Notes:

There is a lot of similarity in appearance and message between John the Baptist and Elisha the Old Testament prophet (2 Kings 1:8).

There was a common belief that Elisha would come prior to the arrival of the Messiah. Jesus confirmed that belief (Mark 9:11-13). And then He pointed to John the Baptist as the fulfillment of that belief (Matt. 13-14).

Scriptures:

⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region

Notes:

around the Jordan went out to him^{sb}

Scriptures:

Psalm 32:5 - I
acknowledged my sin to
You,

And my iniquity I have
not hidden.

I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to the
LORD,"

And You forgave the
iniquity of my sin.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess
our sins, He is faithful and
just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.

John 1:29 - The next day
John saw Jesus coming
toward him, and said,
"Behold! The Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of
the world!"

⁶ and were baptized by him^{sb} in the Jordan,

G907 - wash, assumedly by
dipping, in a ceremonial way,
to ceremonially cleanse, with
the visible agent of water, to
show purity and initiation into
Christ through repentance.

confessing their ~~sins~~^{xxx}.

G1843 - to
confess v. — to
admit to a
punishable deed
or sin.

G266 - sin (act) n. — an act
or feeling that transgresses
something forbidden or
ignores something required
by God's law or character;
whether in thought, feeling,
speech, or action.

Notes:

The Jordan River is not a beautiful
stream of crystal-clear water. It is a
muddy river. It is amazing that
people came to the wilderness, to a
muddy river, to man dressed in
camel hair to be told they needed to
repent, and they did it.

Confession is a necessary
component of repentance. True
confession is specific and personal
(Psalm 32:5). When we confess, God
forgives (1 John 1:9). It is Jesus who
takes our sin away (John 1:29).

⁷ But when ^{SB}he saw many of the ^PPharisees and

^SSadducees coming to ^{SB}his baptism, ^{SB}he said to

^{P&S}them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned ^{P&S}you

G5263 -

⁴⁴
to flee from the wrath to come?

G5343 -

G3709 – fury,
punishment.

G3195 –
inevitable, to be
about to v. — to
be imminent or
impending; occur
soon in the
future.

Notes:

The Pharisees and the Sadducees were the most spiritual people in the nation of Israel. John has no problem calling them out as ‘Brood of vipers.’ That was not a very politically correct thing to say. He is questioning their sincerity in seeking to be baptized. John is calling them out for the sin of presumption.

They presumed that Abraham’s favor with God carried over to them regardless of how they lived or what they believed.

Christians can make a similar mistake. By presuming that having once confessed, they no longer need to concern themselves with sin or holiness, they presume upon the sacrifice of Christ.

‘the wrath to come’ – a common theme of the Old Testament prophets was the fact that God disapproved of His people’s insincere worship or their idolatrous worship of false gods. God gave them two choices: repent and return to a pure worship of God in obedience to His Commands or experience His wrath in judgment. John is implying that these men know they are worthy of God’s judgment and are coming to engage in a religious exercise in the hopes they will escape the judgment they deserve.

‘Brood of vipers’ – Satan is referred to as a serpent in the Garden of Eden. Calling them children of the devil.

Scriptures:
Galatians 5:22-23a - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

G4160 -
produce

G2590 -
results

G514 - in keeping
with or
corresponding to
what is expected.

G3341 - a change
of mind which
results in a
change of
life(style).

Notes:
Instead of acting religious, do those things someone who had sincerely repented would do.

If we have truly repented and the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us, good spiritual fruit should be present in our lives (Gal. 5:22-23a).

Scriptures:

⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have

Notes:
Many Jews held (and may still hold) the view that because they are God's chosen people, He will overlook their sins indefinitely.

Lifeless stones have a better chance of being children of God than they do.

Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God

is able to raise up children to Abraham from these

G1453 - to create
⇔ set up v. — to
create, conceived
as erecting a
building in
construction.

stones.

¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the

Notes:

This is predicting a terrible end for those who persist in their rebellion against God. If someone rejects God's only way to His grace – Jesus – the only thing left is judgment.

trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear

good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 ^{SB} I indeed baptize ^{P+S} you with water unto

repentance, [←] but [↗] He who is coming after ^{SB} me is

mightier than ^{SB} I, whose sandals ^{SB} I am not worthy to

G2478 –
powerful, strong,
intense.

carry. [↗] He will baptize ^{P+S} you with the


Holy Spirit and fire.

G4442 -

Notes:

What is the significance of fire in this context?

John is spiritually holy enough to baptize others with the baptism of repentance. But he knows that he is not holy enough to baptize the one who will come after him.

'Baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' – When we confess and repent, we are washed clean, baptized by the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual baptism of cleansing and being made right with God. This happens at conversion. We then do water baptism as a symbol of what God did spiritually.

Scriptures:

12 His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will

Notes:

thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and

G1245 -

gather His wheat into the barn; but

He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

G2618 -

G762 –
"asbestos" - not
able to go out,
inextinguishable.

Scriptures:

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the

Notes:

Jordan to be baptized by him.

Scriptures:

14 And John ^{JB} *tried to* prevent Him, saying, ^{JB} “I need

G1254 -

Notes:

to be baptized by You^{JB}, and are You^{JB} coming to

^{JB} me?”

Scriptures:

15 But Jesus^{JB} answered and said to him, ^{JB} “Permit

G863 -

Notes:

What does it mean to ‘fulfill all righteousness?’

Everyone who came to John before Jesus was coming to be cleansed of their sin and to be made right with God. Jesus came without sin and was always right with God. His baptism was not to cleanse Him of His sin but to prepare Him to take on our sins.

it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us ^{JB} to fulfill

G4241 - proper, appropriate.

G4137 - to satisfy ⇔
fill up v. — to satisfy,
conceived of as if
filling a container
completely.

all righteousness.” Then he^{JB} allowed Him^{JB}.

G1343 - righteousness n. —
adherence to what is
required according to a
standard; for example, a
moral standard, though not
always.

16 When ^{He} had been baptized, ^{Jesus} came up

Notes:
Did only Jesus see the dove?

This baptism was unique to Jesus.

immediately from the water; and behold, the

G2117 -

heavens were opened to ^{Him}, and ^{He} saw the

G3772 – sky,
abode of God. G455 -

^{Spirit of God} descending like a dove and alighting

G2597 -

G4058 – pigeon.

G2064 -

upon ^{Him}.

17 And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven,

saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom

G27 - beloved (special) adj.
— dearly loved and
cherished; sometimes
preferred above all others
and treated with partiality.

I am well pleased.”

G2106 – enjoy,
prefer.

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