

Hope in the Messianic Work

A scenic view of a turquoise lake surrounded by lush green trees and a rocky path. The water is a vibrant, clear blue-green color, reflecting the surrounding foliage. The trees are dense and vibrant green, with some branches hanging over the water. A rocky path leads along the right side of the lake. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Matthew 3:1-12

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In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Matthew 3:1-12

⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

Matthew 3:1-12

⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:1-12

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

We need “Preparers” like John

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Preparers should:

- Be rooted in Scripture
- Be noticeably different
- Expect resistance

“Preparers” pave the path for
hope, but are not the fulfillment
of hope

Pride is a hope killer

Hope in the Messiah is hope in
permanent justice

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