

## **Are You Prepared For Christmas? How About the End of Time?**

### **Isaiah 40:1–8**

“Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God. <sup>2</sup>“Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” <sup>3</sup>A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see *it* together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” <sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Call out.” Then he answered, “What shall I call out?” All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

### **Luke 3:4–6**

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. <sup>5</sup>‘Every ravine will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low; the crooked will become straight, and the rough roads smooth; <sup>6</sup>And all flesh will see the salvation of God.’ ”

---

## **Who or What Were Isaiah & John the Baptist Talking About?**

### **Malachi 3:1–4**

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

### **Malachi 4:5–6**

“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. <sup>6</sup>He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”

### **Matthew 3:1–6**

Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!’ ” <sup>4</sup>Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; <sup>6</sup>and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

### **Mark 1:1–8**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way; <sup>3</sup> The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.’ ” <sup>4</sup> John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> John was clothed with camel’s hair and *wore* a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he was preaching, and saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. <sup>8</sup> I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

### **Luke 1:67–80**

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: <sup>68</sup> “Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant - <sup>70</sup> As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old - <sup>71</sup> Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, <sup>74</sup> to grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. <sup>76</sup> and you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways; <sup>77</sup> to give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, <sup>79</sup> to shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” <sup>80</sup> and the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

### **Luke 3:1–6**

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. <sup>5</sup> ‘Every ravine will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low; the crooked will become straight, and the rough roads smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh will see the salvation of God.’ ”

### **John 1:19–23**

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup> They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”

### **Matthew 11:7–15**

As these men were going *away*, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ palaces! <sup>9</sup> But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.’

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. <sup>13</sup> For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to accept *it*, John himself is Elijah who was to come. <sup>15</sup> He who has ears to hear, let him hear.