

lr-nt-04  
January 21-27  
“We Have Found the Messiah”  
(John 1)  
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(Continued explanation of the powerful witnesses that Jesus is the Christ).

I. John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. “For this was he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. (Matthew 3:1-2)

B. As Elijah had been forerunner to Elisha, so John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ.

1. The descriptions of John the Baptist are like Elijah’s.

a. He lived in the wilderness, and near the banks of the Jordan, separated from regular civilization.

b. His dress was like Elijah’s --- a garment made of hair and skins.

c. Both were nourished by the Lord in the wilderness.

d. Both transferred their mantle of authority to him who would come after.

2. Consider that this same description fits Brigham Young and the Saints who also went into the wilderness. There, in their early years, they sometimes wore *buckskin*. They have continued to be nourished by the Lord in the wilderness. And they immediately began and continue to build up God’s Kingdom; whose keys will someday be turned over to Jesus Christ.

3. While John the Baptist was like Elijah, he was not the Elijah who would come in the Last Days as prophesied by Malachi to bring the sealing keys for Latter-day temple work (Matthew 17:9-13).

II. The major way John prepared for the Lord was to preach repentance unto the people.

A. Consider how John the Baptist asked people to repent.

1. Mat. 1:8. “Bring forth fruits meet for repentance.” (If we really are repentant, we will bring forth good fruits).

2. Luke 10-14. “He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none.”

a. Some of our prophets have literally given the coats off their backs to other persons in need, such as President George Albert Smith who took off his best, new coat and put them in a box of goods being sent to Germany after World War II.

b. While visiting East Germany before the Iron Curtain came down, President Thomas S. Monson noticed that some of the larger brethren had difficulty finding clothing that fit. He gave to one the suit off his back. He gave to another his shoes. While arriving in that land with a good suit and good shoes, he left with a white shirt, some trousers, and some worn shoes.

There were actually several occasions. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland paid tribute to him for another. “...the image of him I will cherish until I die is of him flying home from then --- - economically devastated East Germany in his house slippers because he had given away not only his second suit and his extra shirts but the very shoes from off his feet” (*Ensign*, November 2014, p. 42).

B. Consider how our Latter-day prophets truly are prophets who are “voices crying in the wilderness” asking the world to repent and trying to prepare them for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

C. Consider how “The Family Proclamation” is the voice of Latter-day prophets calling repentance to a world who is being deceived and led astray.

D. Consider how we can become more involved in preparing for Christ by repenting and by encouraging repentance.

1. Our good examples are one of the best ways of encouraging repentance.

III. As a Nazarite, or a man consecrated to prepare the way, John drank no wine. This may also witness of us who are called to prepare the way for Christ’s Second Coming. It is a **clue why we, as those Latter-day preparers of the Way, are also asked to drink no wine, in preparation for His return.** For He will bring the new, **pure wine** which will be drunk at His great Wedding Feast.

- A. There is evidence that Nazareth was a city where many who were Nazarenes lived, those who had consecrated themselves to the Lord.

IV. Jesus came to earth to provide **New Births**, else each of us here would die --- both spiritually and physically.

- A. John taught that giving such New Births would be Jesus’ greatest mortal mission.
  1. “**But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name, which were born, not of the blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God**” (John 1:12-13).
  2. John here is teaching that through Christ’s mortal works, man could experience a **spiritual rebirth** which could make him **literally a “son of God.”**
  3. And Jesus Christ would become like a Spiritual Father, as He has “spiritually begotten us” (Mosiah 5:7; D&C 76:24).