



Today's Message

Date: January 19, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***John the Baptist: "The King is Coming"***

Text: Luke 3:1–6 (ESV)

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

Introduction: The storyline of Luke's Gospel fast-forwards from the childhood of Jesus to the beginning of his ministry at about age 30. Chapter 3 begins with an account of the ministry of Jesus' cousin, John (elsewhere called "the Baptist"). John was a prophet God raised up to identify and introduce Israel's long-awaited King.

Today's take-home truth: At the right time and place God raised up John to announce, "the King is coming."

I. At the right time and place . . . 1-2

- A. Jesus' story was historical.
- B. Jesus' message was public.
- C. Jesus' salvation is global.

II. God raised up John . . . 3

- A. He was a divinely appointed prophet . . .
- B. who delivered a divinely revealed message:
 - 1. A message of forgiveness . . .
 - 2. received through repentance . . .
 - 3. and spiritual cleansing.

III. to announce, "the King is Coming." 4-6

- A. His arrival was imminent.
- B. His people prepare to meet Him.
- C. His reign has no boundaries.