

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

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

We are at the point where **John the Herald** is preparing the nation Israel to receive Her Messiah – Her promised King.

- Remember that John has been chosen by God to prepare the nation for the promised seed of David and Abraham who would rule in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (**2 Sam 7:12-13**).
- Time is 29AD – approximately 20 years have passed since the circumstances regarding our Lord in the temple at 12 years old.
- John is about 34-35 years old; the Lord is about 33-34 years old.

Matthew 3:1-2

(1) Now in those days (approx 29AD) John the **Baptist came, preaching** in the **wilderness** of Judea, saying,

“Baptist” - ὁ Βαπτιστής

HO BAPTISTES – John “*the baptizer*” -

- Performing the verbal action of - **BAPTIZO** – “*To dip or to immerse*”

And he had a message -

“Came” - παραγίνομαι

PARAGINOMAI – “*Arrived*”

“Preaching” - κηρῦσσω

KERUSSO – “*To speak with authority and conviction as a herald*”

Present tense - Fulfilling this verbal action throughout the course of his ministry.

“Wilderness” - ἔρημος

EREMOS – “*Desolate or abandon place*”

“*Desert or wilderness*”

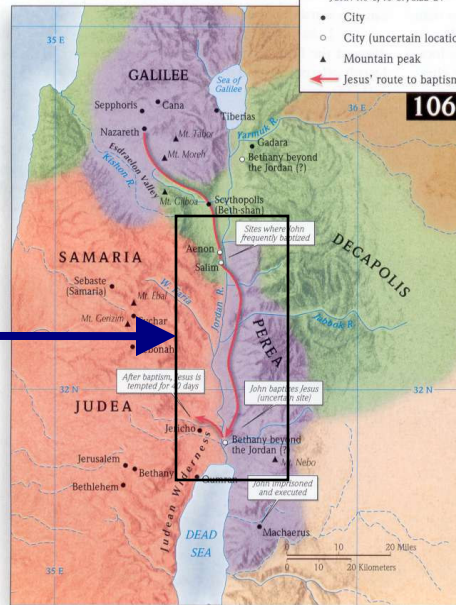
... of Judea...”

(1) (**Interpretive**) Now in those days (approx 29AD) John the Baptist arrived, preaching - *speaking with authority and conviction as a herald* - in the wilderness or desolate place of Judea, saying,

JOHN THE BAPTIST

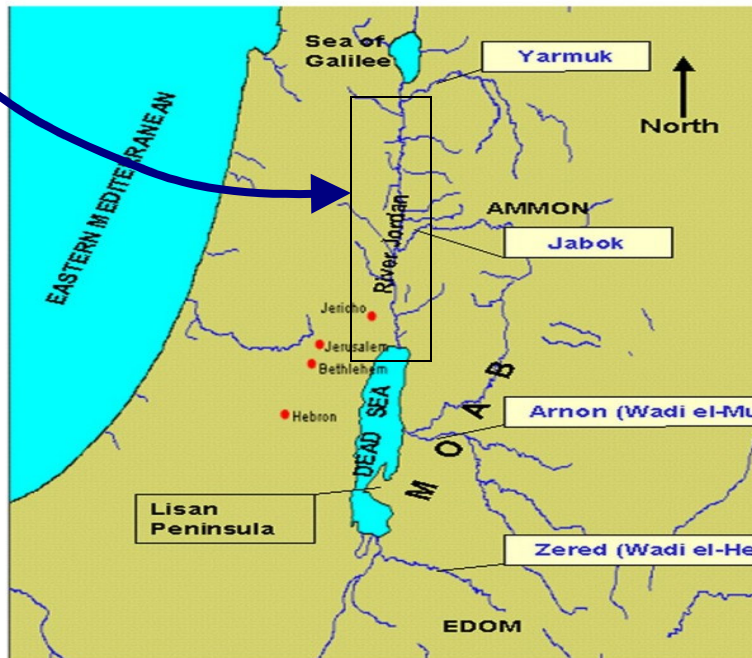
MATT. 3:1-4:12
MARK 1:4-16; 6:14-29
LUKE 3:1-23; 9:29-9
JOHN 1:6-8, 15-37; 3:22-24

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Jesus' route to baptism



Desolate or abandon area where John communicated.
“Judean wilderness”

Geography of Israel
Bodies of Water



Why did God place John in “in the desolate place of Judea”?

- To challenge peoples volition.
- In other words – if you want to hear the message God has for you, then you will need to go where God has placed the messenger.
- The people are therefore forced to separate from what they have known – what they have been accustomed to in Jerusalem. Remember, Jerusalem has been the center for worship and the place where Jesus had challenged the doctors and teachers of the Law years earlier.

1. God determines where the messenger is going to communicate from.
 - How did John know it was God’s will to proclaim his message in the wilderness?
 - The Spirit of God was upon him and the Spirit revealed to John where he needed to be.
 - Today, under the bearing witness ministry of the Holy Spirit, the communicator should be able to determine the place where God wants him to be.
2. Those with positive volition will locate themselves around the messenger to hear the message.
 - A testimony to positive volition
3. Requires people to separate from what they are accustomed to.
 - Separation is a test that God provides the positive believer.
 - Abraham being an example in that he was commanded to separate from his family.
 - Others from family or friends or church.
 - John teaching in the wilderness called on people in Jerusalem, with positive volition, to make the decision about whether to separate or not.

How important is God’s message to you?

What message is John communicating here?

(2) **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

"Repent" - μετανοέω

METANOEO – ***"To change one’s mind"***
Imperative mood – the mood of command.

"For" - γάρ

GAR – ***"Because"*** – emphasizes the need to repent.

"Is at hand" - ἐγγίζω

ENGIZO – ***"It is approaching"*** or ***"On the brink of being instituted"***.
Perfect active indicative.

- Matthew places a great emphasis on David – David – David!
- Matthew is focused on Jesus as Israel’s king who is going to rule the kingdom of heaven from David’s earthly throne. The kingdom is called the “kingdom of heaven” because He is going to rule this kingdom with heavenly principles and He is a heavenly king because He came from heaven.
- Everyone is expecting Messiah’s arrival to establish this kingdom in which Israel will never be oppressed.
- Judgment is something that accompanies Messiah’s advent and this is what they are expecting. A colossal judgment – the wheat will be separated from the chaff.

For the kingdom to be instituted John’s mission is a prerequisite – a message of repentance!
John’s message conveys a **command** – a command to change one’s mind and someone will change their mind by hearing a **message**.

Who is just six months younger than John? The King – the One who was born King of the Jews. The king is present. That is why the kingdom “**is at hand**” or “**on the brink of being instituted**”.

Perfect tense of ENGIZO communicates the kingdom is on the brink of being instituted as a result of completed past action.

The past action is the birth of the King.

Matthew 4:17

(17) From that time...

- After our Lord’s baptism by John.
- After His testing by our adversary the Devil in the wilderness.

...Jesus began to preach and say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

The herald and the King are preaching the same message.

“Change your mind because the kingdom is on the brink of being instituted” ... and guess what?
I’m your King!

Consequences of not changing your mind? JUDGMENT

Prerequisite for the kingdom to be instituted by the King – [National] REPENTENCE.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.