

Luke 3:1 -20

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene-- during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'"

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely-- be content with your pay."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

How time flies!

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar-



Tiberius was Roman Emperor from 14 AD to 37 AD. Born Tiberius Claudius Nero

That makes it about 28-29 AD.

In really bad times ...

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea



Pontius Pilate was the fifth prefect of the Roman province of Judaea from AD 26–36.[4][5] He served under Emperor Tiberius

One of the archaeological finds for Pilate's life is an inscription known as the Pilate Stone, which refers to his title as prefect

In really bad times ...when

Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene-



Herod the tetrarch - Antipas ruled Galilee He was responsible for building his capital Tiberias on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.



Philip the Tetrarch - Like Antipas, Philip honoured his Roman patrons by founding cities dedicated to the imperial family. Paneas, an ancient spa & pagan shrine at the source of the Jordan river, became Philip's imperial capital Caesarea Philippi.



Lysanias was the ruler of a small realm on the western slopes of Mount Hermon

In really bad times ...

- during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas



Annas officially served as High Priest for ten years (6–15 AD), when at the age of 36 he was deposed. He remained a very influential political individual, aided greatly by the use of his five sons and his son-in-law as puppet High Priests.

John prepares the way ...



the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ...

preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.'"

John's message

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

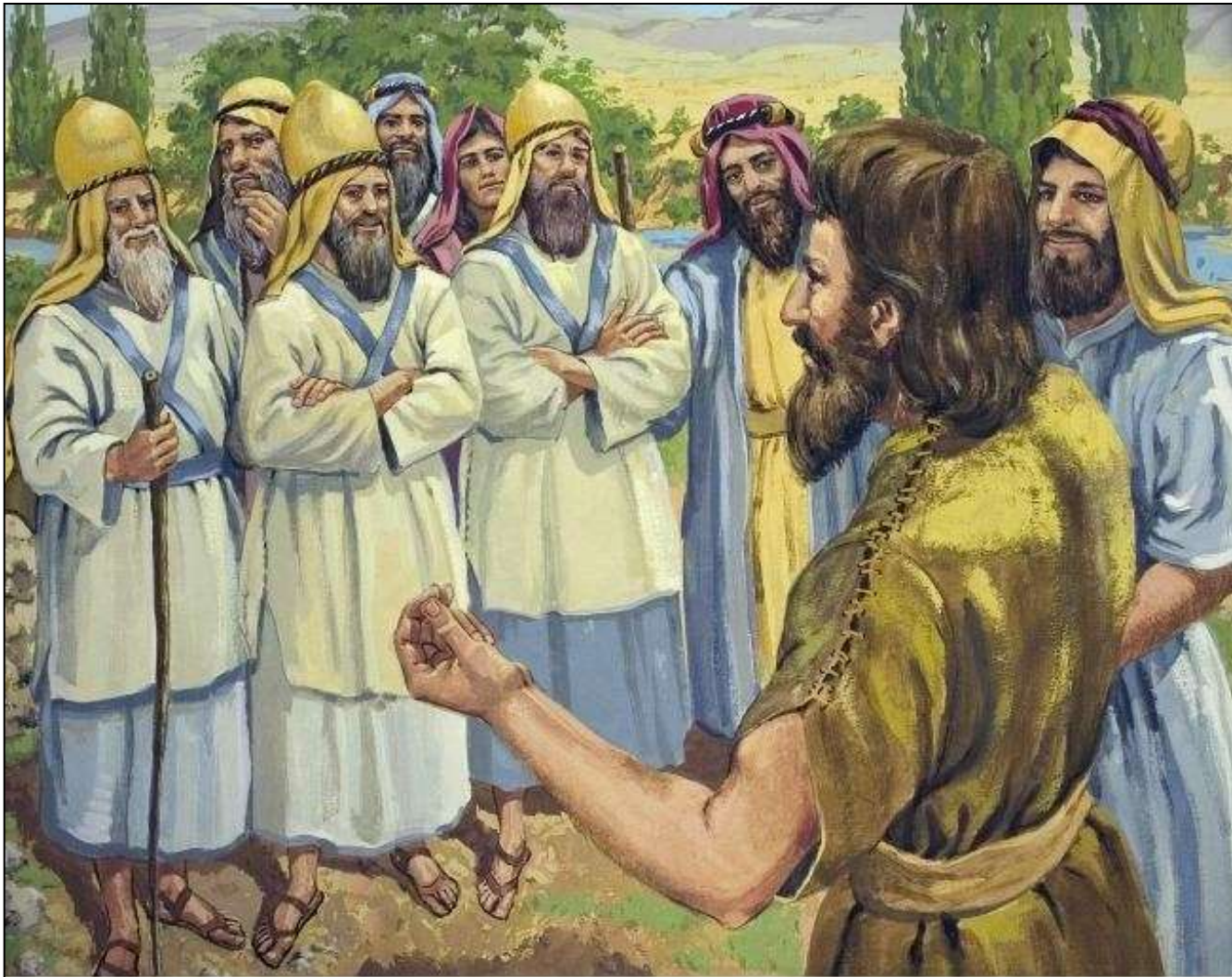
Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. **The axe is already at the root of the trees,** and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."



The people's response

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked





Personal repentance

John answered, "Anyone who has two tunics should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Even **tax collectors** came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Then some **soldiers** asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay."

The people's expectation

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.



John's answer:-

It's not me but he's coming!



I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

What did he mean?





His winnowing fork
is in his hand to
clear his threshing
floor and to gather
the wheat into his
barn,



but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

(What was John expecting to happen?)

And with many other words John exhorted the people and
proclaimed the **good news** to them.

Public sin – Public rebuke!



Herod Antipas was the tetrarch of Galilee. He was loathed by the populace.

Antipas hit rock bottom though when he married Herodias. Not only was she the former wife of his half-brother Philip, but she was also his niece.

But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done

The sting of the good news



and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.