

January 23–29
Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”



The Mission of John the Baptist

D&C 84:26-28

26 And the lesser priesthood continued, which priesthood holdeth the key of the ministering of angels and the preparatory gospel;

27 Which gospel is the gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins, and the law of carnal commandments, which the Lord in his wrath caused to continue with the house of Aaron among the children of Israel until John, whom God raised up, being filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb.

28 For he was baptized while he was yet in his childhood, and was ordained by the angel of God at the time he was eight days old unto this power, to overthrow the kingdom of the Jews, and to make straight the way of the Lord before the face of his people, to prepare them for the coming of the Lord, in whose hand is given all power

Dallin H. Oaks

“What does it mean that the Aaronic Priesthood holds ‘the key of the ministering of angels’ and of the ‘gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins’? The meaning is found in the ordinance of baptism and in the sacrament. Baptism is for the remission of sins, and the sacrament is a renewal of the covenants and blessings of baptism. Both should be preceded by repentance. When we keep the covenants made in these ordinances, we are promised that we will always have His Spirit to be with us. The ministering of angels is one of the manifestations of that Spirit.” (CR, Oct. 1998)

The Mission of John the Baptist

Mark 1:2-6

What does verse 4 tell us that John did to prepare the way for Christ's ministry?

What gives an indication of his success?

The Mission of John the Baptist

Luke 3:10-14

What gospel principles did John teach the people in these verses?

The Mission of John the Baptist

Matt 3:7-10

To whom does God extend the blessings of Abraham?

JST Matt 3:33-36

33 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

34 Why is it that ye receive not the preaching of him whom God hath sent? If ye receive not this in your hearts, ye receive not me; and if ye receive not me, ye receive not him of whom I am sent to bear record; and for your sins ye have no cloak.

35 Repent, therefore, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance;

36 And think not to say within yourselves, We are the children of Abraham, and we only have power to bring seed unto our father Abraham; for I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children into Abraham.

Bruce R. McConkie

“John's stinging rebuke was that ‘Of these stony Gentiles, these dogs,’ these lowest of all creatures (in the Jewish mind), God is able ‘to raise up children unto Abraham.’ Our Lord's forerunner is teaching the principle of adoption: that Abraham is ‘the father of all them that believe’ (Rom 4:11) both Jew and Gentile; that through belief in Christ all men become ‘Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise’ (Gal 3:28-29); that all who believe the gospel shall be accounted as Abraham's seed and rise up and bless him ‘as their father’ (Abra 2:10).” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:120)

The Mission of John the Baptist

Luke 3:15-16

Marion G. Romney

“The importance of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost is beyond expression. It is the baptism of fire referred to by John. It is the 'spirit birth of which Jesus spoke to Nicodemus: 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God' (John 3:5).

“Receiving the Holy Ghost is the therapy which effects forgiveness and heals the sin-sick soul.

“The hallmark of the church of Christ, distinguishing it from all other churches and forms of worship, has ever been the receiving of the gift of the Holy Ghost by the membership of the Church.” (CR, April 1974)

The Mission of John the Baptist

Matt 3:13-17

What reason did Christ give for being baptized?

In what way were all three members of the Godhood made manifest at the baptism of Jesus?

2 Nephi 31:6-9

6 And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfil all righteousness in being baptized by water?

7 Know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, he showeth unto the children of men that, according to the flesh he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments.

8 Wherefore, after he was baptized with water the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove.

9 And again, it showeth unto the children of men the straitness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them.

Gordon B. Hinckley

"I believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. I was baptized in the name of these three. I was married in the name of these three. I have no question concerning their reality and their individuality. That individuality was made apparent when Jesus was baptized by John in Jordan. There in the water stood the Son of God. His Father's voice was heard declaring His divine Sonship, and the Holy Ghost was manifest in the form of a dove....

"They are distinct beings, but they are one in purpose and effort. They are united as one in bringing to pass the grand, divine plan for the salvation and exaltation of the children of God." (CR, Oct. 1986)

D&C 65:3-5

3 Yea, a voice crying—Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the Bridegroom.

4 Pray unto the Lord, call upon his holy name, make known his wonderful works among the people.

5 Call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of Man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth.

Next Week:

January 30–February 5

Matthew 4; Luke 4–5

“The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Me”

