

# Jesus' First and Second Comings

Saturday, 12/7 at 4:00 ✦ Sunday, 12/8 at 9:00

Second Sunday in Advent – 2019

Advent Wednesdays: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: We are in the church year season of Advent; the word *Advent* means *coming*.

During Advent:

- ➔ With sorrow we remember our sins.
- ➔ With thankfulness we remember Jesus' first coming.
- ➔ With anticipation we remember Jesus' second coming.

Today's sermon text is from **Matthew chapter 3**; we will learn about ✦ John the Baptist, ✦ John's ministry, and ✦ what John said about the first and second comings of Jesus.

1. **John Prepared the Way:**

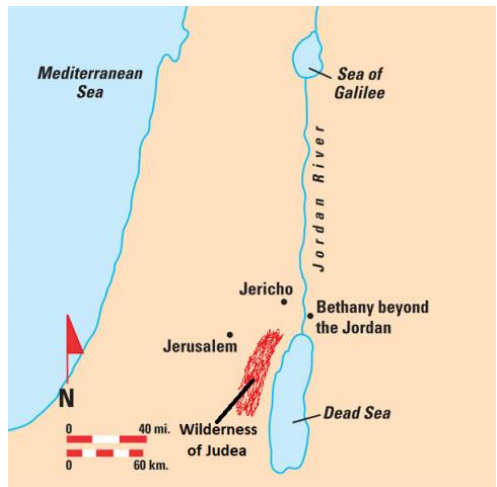
<sup>1</sup> **In those days** [*according to God's perfect timing*]

**John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,**

<sup>2</sup> **"Repent** [*be sorry, believe in the coming Messiah, and go forward in agreement with God's will*],

**for the kingdom of**

**heaven is at hand."** <sup>3</sup> **For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah** [*700 years earlier*] **when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"**



- a. A physical forerunner: He was a person who prepared the way for a king; his job was to scout out the best route and, *where necessary*, to ♦build bridges, ♦lower hills, and ♦fill-in valleys. Then the king could easily make his way to his destination.
  - b. A spiritual forerunner: That was John, *who prepared the way for King Jesus!* He called the people to repent; in other words: To ✓be sorry for their sins, ✓believe in the coming Messiah, and ✓live according to God’s Word! Even though we may think we can do such things, the Bible teaches us that **God** works through His Word to ♦make sorry, ♦give faith, and ♦give power!
2. **Sorry, Confessing, Baptized, Forgiven**: <sup>4</sup> **Now John** [*the Baptizer*] **wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.** <sup>5</sup> **Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him,** <sup>6</sup> **and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.**
- a. Think about John: His description was rugged, *and he lived off the land*. He didn’t have the comforts and pleasures of this world; instead, *he was focused on doing the will of God*.
  - b. The Savior: As soon as Adam and Eve fell into sin, *God promised to send the Savior!* Over the centuries, *some believed and were looking for His coming*. When the word spread about John and his work, *some thought he was the Promised Christ*. Therefore, many ♦left the comforts of the city, ♦traveled to the wilderness, ♦heard John preach, ♦were moved by God to be sorry for their sins, ♦confessed their sins, and ♦were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins!

3. **Repentance Has Fruit:** <sup>7</sup> But when [John] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance [*don’t just say you are repentant, show it*]. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit [*the fruit of repentance – that comes from sorrow for sin and faith in the Messiah*] is cut down and thrown into the fire.

- a. Pharisees and Sadducees: The Pharisees prided themselves on their *outward* keeping of the Law, while the Sadducees only accepted the first five books of the OT. The two groups were different from each other, yet John called both groups a “brood of vipers,” *children of poisonous snakes!*
- b. Proof: By virtue of those men coming to John, they were basically saying, “*We are repentant.*” However, John did not believe them, *so he called for those men to prove it*, to “bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”
- c. Membership: Even though those men were descendants of Abraham, that would not save them, *just as church membership today does not save anyone.* Instead, it is necessary to have ✓ sorrow for sin, ✓ trust in Jesus, and ✓ fruit that shows our sorrow and faith!

4. **Jesus’ First Coming:** <sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. // John

◆baptized with water *for the forgiveness of sins* and  
◆pointed ahead to Jesus *who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire*. When did Jesus do that? On the Day of Pentecost, *50 days after His resurrection*. John poured water, *but Jesus poured the Holy Spirit*, who appeared as tongues of fire! When we were baptized, the Holy Spirit  
✦clothed us in Christ and ✦took up residence within us!

5. **Jesus' Second Coming:** <sup>12</sup> **His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.** // On a threshing flood, the wheat, *which is good*, is separated from the chaff, *which is worthless*. Dr. Kretzmann explained the meaning: “**God's great threshing-floor is the earth. The test by which He decides the fate of every person in the world... is the relation toward Jesus and His salvation. Those that are found secure in His redemption through faith are gathered safely into... heaven. But those that are found too light [like chaff] ...on account of their reliance upon their own self-righteousness..., will find themselves subjected to the... inextinguishable fire... of hell.**”<sup>1</sup>

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, we thank You for Your saving work, and pray that the Holy Spirit would keep us trusting in You – *until You finally bring us into the joy-filled eternity!*

**This Week's Challenge:** Knowing Jesus will come again, *be sorry, trust in Jesus, go God's way, and rejoice in God's gift of eternal life!*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/kpc/matthew-3.html>