

LESSON 18 – BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU

Matthew – Mark – Luke - John

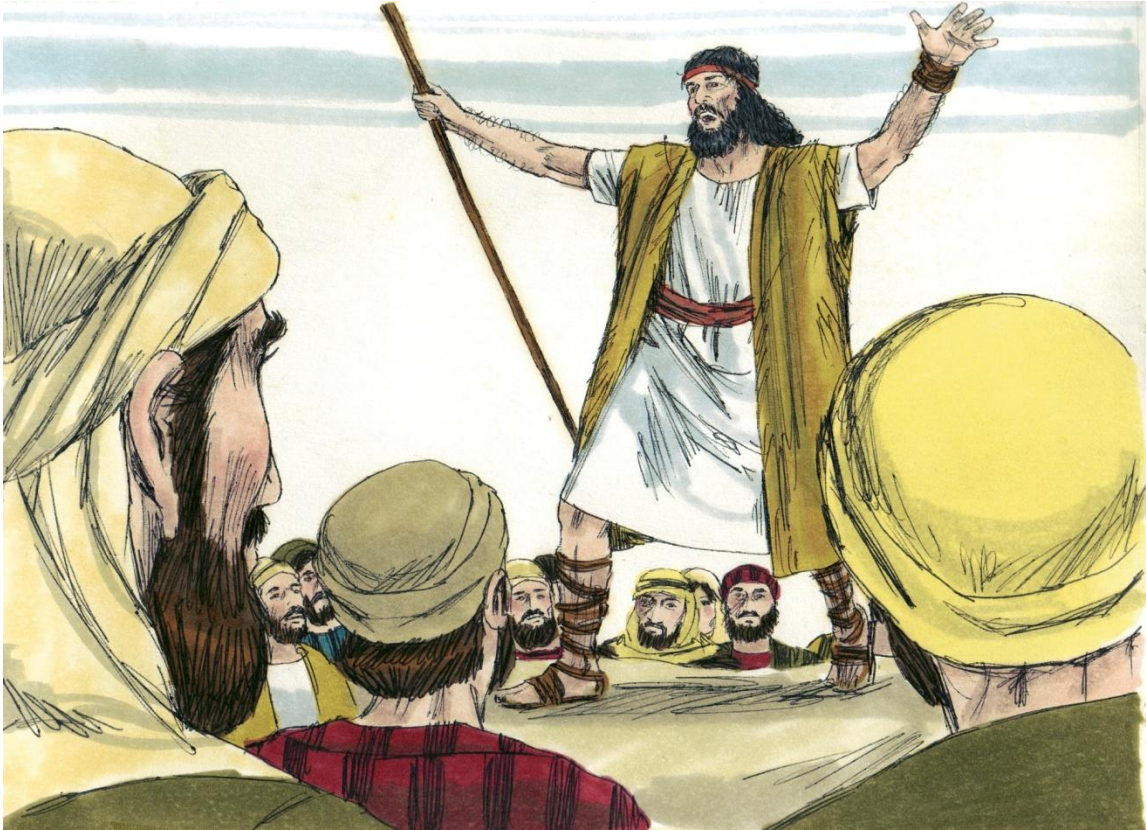
THEME: To teach the identification of Christ with His people.

After the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem by the prophet Nehemiah, there was silence from God through His prophets for more than 450 years. Had God forgotten His promises? Would the King come? Suddenly a voice broke into the stillness! The voice was the prophet, John the Baptist. He spoke: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!” Matthew 3:2-3. KINGDOM HIGHWAY had to be made straight for the coming of the King.

About thirty years before John came telling this message, a baby had been born in Bethlehem. His name was called JESUS, which means “Yahweh is salvation” or “Yahweh saves” for He was to save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21-23. For about 30 years very little was heard of the child born in Bethlehem until John the Baptist came preaching: “Repent!” “Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.” Matthew 3:5-6. The baptism with water, as they confessed their sins, was the way Israel was to make straight KINGDOM HIGHWAY and make ready for their King.

When John saw Jesus coming to him, he said: “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29. Actually, John did not want to baptise Jesus, but we can see what Jesus replied in Matthew 3:15. Afterwards Jesus was led up by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted afterwards three times by the devil. For every temptation, Jesus quoted the Word of God and then the devil left Him. Are you able to quote God’s Word to stand temptations?

Afterwards Jesus began preaching: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Matthew 4:17. Jesus proved Himself to be the Son of God, the King in truth. He was the One the prophets had foretold would come. He worked mighty miracles, healed the sick and the blind, calmed the waves and walked on the sea, casted out demons, and even raised the dead. He chose 12 disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease, and every kind of sickness. Matthew 10:1. He sent them out with orders quite different from those that preachers receive today. We note here Jesus’ instructions to the 12 disciples: “Do not go in the way of the gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel...saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’...Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. Do not acquire gold, or silver,...or even two coats, or sandals” Matthew 10:5-10.



Source: Sweet Publishing - for illustration purposes of the preaching of John the Baptist only

One day, a strange incident occurred. On our chart we have been traveling KINGDOM HIGHWAY giving no attention to the gentiles on GENTILE BYWAY. Israel was the channel through which God was working ever since He gave up the gentiles a long time back at the tower of Babel.

Jesus was in the district of Tyre and Sidon when a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us." But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

The complete story is found in Matthew 15:21-28 and in Mark 7:24-30. This gentile woman had heard of the power of the Lord Jesus and had come over from GENTILE BYWAY

to ask for a blessing. Jesus honoured her faith, although it was not yet the time prophesied for full blessings to be shared with gentiles in the Kingdom.

“Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey” Matthew 21:5. Israel had called Jesus from Nazareth the Son of David, but the chief priests and scribes were much displeased. Matthew 21:15. Thus the nation of Israel did not any longer welcome their King.

We look back to the baptism of Jesus. Why was He baptised? The Bible says in Matthew 3:15: “to fulfill all righteousness.” Baptism was a picture/sign to Israel of washing away their sins. Acts 22:16. Jesus had no sins, but He was in the world at this time, beginning to take the sinners’ place, and had to be made in all things like His brethren, so that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God (Hebrews 2:17) to give us His perfect righteousness.

The Scriptures teach that Jesus was a Prophet, a great Teacher, the King of Israel, the Messiah, and at His baptism we see him coming as High Priest to the kingdom of priests – the nation of Israel: “and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Exodus 19:6. “But you will be called the priests of the Lord; you will be spoken of as ministers of God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.” Isaiah 61:6. And in 1 Peter 2:9,12 we read: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,...Keep your behaviour excellent among the gentiles...” When priests were ordained, the Law prescribed certain rituals to be followed, including washing them with water (Exodus 29:4). That ceremonial washing was performed at Jesus’ baptism. All who entered the service to do the work in the tent of meeting were required to be at least 30 years old. Numbers chapter 4. Chapters 3 through 10 of the epistle to the Hebrews and Psalm 110:4 tell how God the Father designated His own Son the Perfect High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

In our next lesson we will see how Christ went all the way to death on Calvary’s Cross to complete the work of becoming sin for us. That work is finished and you may be saved by simply believing that He died for your sins, was buried and was raised on the third day. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

MEMORY VERSE: “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

LESSON 18 – WORK SHEET

Fill in the blanks in the following statements.

1. After more than 450 years of silence from God through His prophets, Israel heard the voice of _____ saying _____.
Matthew 3:1-3.
2. Israel prepared for the coming King by _____
_____. Matthew 3:6.
3. John said that he baptised with water for repentance, but the One coming after him would baptise with _____. Matthew 3:11.
4. Jesus said that He was baptised in order to fulfill all _____
Matthew 3:15.
5. Jesus gave His disciples power to perform miracles in order to prove that the King and the Kingdom of Heaven were truly at hand. Name these miracles from Matthew 10:8:

Look up the references and answer the following WHY questions?

6. WHY did Jesus tell His disciples *not to go to the gentiles*? Mark 7:27.

7. WHY did Jesus finally honour the request of the gentile woman? Matthew 15:28.

8. WHY is this portion of *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE* called KINGDOM HIGHWAY? Matthew 21:5 _____
9. WHY is it *not necessary* for those who live in the Dispensation of Grace to be baptised with water in order to receive righteousness? Acts 22:16. _____

10. Write 2 Corinthians 5:21: _____

_____.