

## **Prophecy and Birth Narrative V:**

*John the Baptist and Isaiah 40:1-5 and Malachi 3:1a*

- 1A Malachi 3:1 Behold, I am sending my messenger and he will clear the way before me.
  - 1C The key to understanding this as a Messianic prophecy is to continue reading. The next few verses reveal it. Malachi 3:1-4
    - 1D The Messenger, 1a “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me.
    - 2D The Coming of the Lord to His Temple, 1b, And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple,
    - 3D The Identity of the Lord, 1c Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.
    - 4D The Nature of His Coming in Refining, vv.2-3a, 2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver,
    - 5D The Purpose of His Coming, 3b That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.
    - 6D The Result of His Coming, 4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the Lord, As in the days of old, As in former years.
  - 2C Verses 1-4 are clearly a Messianic prophecy, where the Lord comes to His temple and refines His people so that they might serve Him, as in the days of old.
  - 3C But first must come the messenger.
  - 4C Malachi portrays the sending of this messenger as imminent, as about to happen at any time.
  - 5C This messenger is one who belongs to God, and thus carries God’s unique message.
  - 6C The mission of God’s messenger will be to clear the way before Him. The Hebrew shows an intensive action of clearing.
  - 7C This is done immediately in front of the Lord. The mission of the messenger will be to clear the way before the Lord, right before He comes.
- 2A Isaiah 40:1-5:
  - 1B A Declaration of the Comfort of Jerusalem, 1 “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God.
  - 2B The End of Warfare and Forgiveness of Sin as the Reason for the Comfort, 2 “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord’s hand Double for all her sins.”
  - 3B The Forerunner in the Wilderness, 3a The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
    - 1C The Highway in the Wilderness, 3b-4 “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;
    - 2C The Universal Revelation of the Lord’s Glory, 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
- 3A John’s Forerunner Ministry:

- 1B** Luke 3:1-6, 1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”
- 2B** Matthew 3:1-4, 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ” 4 Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- 3B** Mark 1:1-8, 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.” 3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ” 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
- 4A** Luke 3:6 quotes from Isaiah 40, but the last part, “the salvation of God” is not in the original Hebrew. That is from Isaiah 6:10.
- 5A** Isaiah 52:6-10, 6 Therefore My people shall know My name; Therefore they shall know in that day That I am He who speaks: ‘Behold, it is I.’ ” 7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!” 8 Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, With their voices they shall sing together; For they shall see eye to eye When the Lord brings back Zion. 9 Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.
- 6A** This is the universal salvation of Israel at the second coming: Matthew 24:30-31, 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.