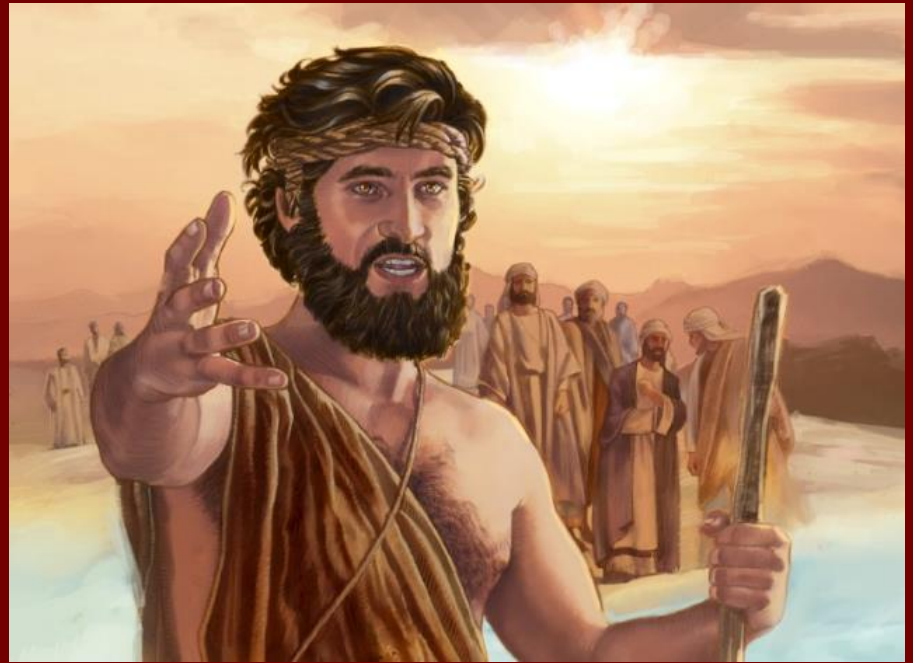


Message

**John the Baptist:
Power of Elijah**

Neal Parker



“I Will Raise Up For Them a Prophet”

■ Deuteronomy 18:15-18

- “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly...”**
- Warning in Deuteronomy 13:1-11**



Warning About “Prophets”

■ Consideration

- All of us desire to know the future so we can be prepared for it. We want to be in control of our destinies and not at the mercy of events. However, some have this desire so strongly that they set themselves up as channels through which the future is revealed.
- At other times, simply following a church tradition regarding a prophecy can also mislead a person. Due to frequent repetition, it came to be accepted as truth.



“I Will Raise Up For Them a Prophet”

■ Deuteronomy 18:15-18

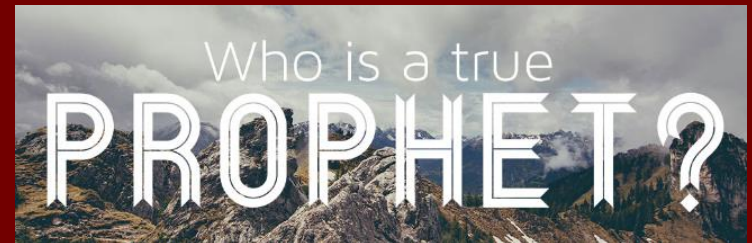
- God established the pattern for the prophetic office in Moses ("like me").**
- God will raise a prophet up from among the Israelites. Later biblical sources show he might be drawn and appointed from any of the tribes and from any occupation (i.e. Prophets of God did not have to be a Levite.)**



“I Will Raise Up For Them a Prophet”

■ Deuteronomy 18:15-18

- He will perform the function of a mediator between God and men (verses 16-18).**
- He will stand apart from the system already installed. He will not be antagonistic to the system, but he may be very antagonistic to the sins of those within the system, especially the leadership.**



“I Will Raise Up For Them a Prophet”

■ Deuteronomy 18:15-18

- God will directly appoint and separate him for his office.**
 - Prophet’s service as God's representative is direct and authoritative.**



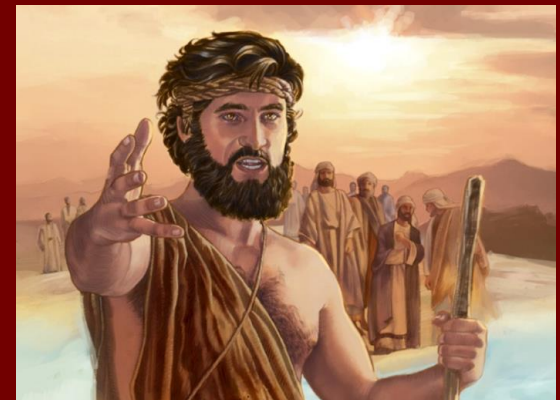
John the Baptist

■ Matthew 11:7-11

- “...I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist;...”

■ Luke 1:5-7, 15-17

- “...For he will be great in the sight of the Lord,...”



John the Baptist

■ Mark 1:1-8

- “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You...”

■ Luke 1:80 / Mark 2:18

- “So the child grew and became strong in spirit,...”
 - **II Timothy 1:7** – “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.



John the Baptist

■ Mark 11:32

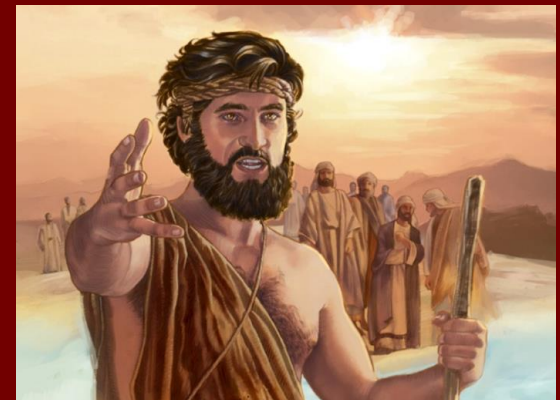
- “...for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed.”

■ Mark 1:9-11

- Baptism of Jesus

■ Matthew 3:7-10

- “...Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”



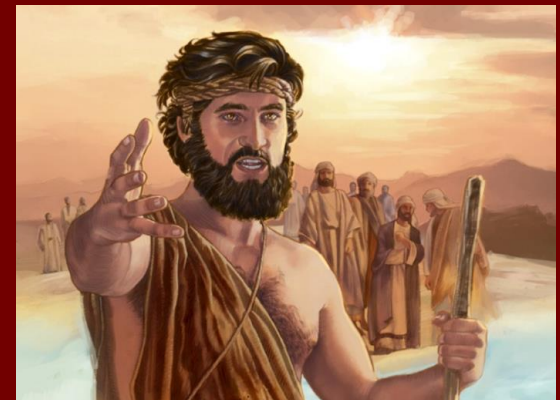
John the Baptist

■ Luke 7:29-30

- “...all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God...Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him”

■ Matthew 21:32

- “...when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.”



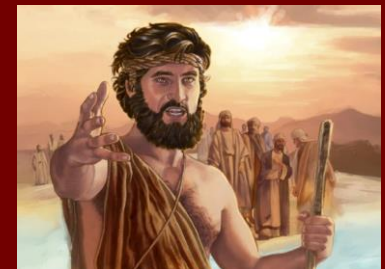
John the Baptist

■ Mark 6:17-27

- "...It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife..."

■ Luke 1:5-79

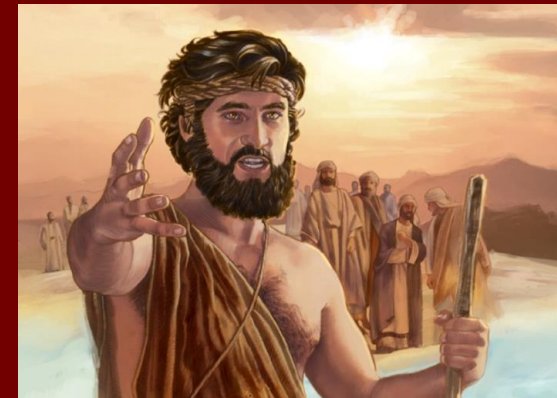
- Verses 5-25: Announcement of John's birth
- Verses 68-79: Zechariah's praise to God for John
- Verses 76-79: Prophecy about John



John the Baptist: Prophecy

■ John 1:6-9

- “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world.”



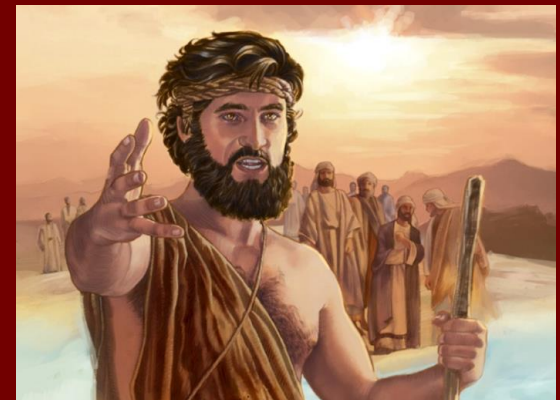
John the Baptist: Elijah

■ Matthew 11:13-15

- “...And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

■ Matthew 17:10-13

- “...Elijah has come already...Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.”



Applications For Us

■ **Consideration:**

– **His Faith**

- **No matter how impossible something seems from man's standpoint, it is not impossible with God. Never doubt God.**
- **Do not place yourself above God's Word as its judge to say whether or not is possible, reasonable, or likely. Accept it as truth because it is true.**
- **He walked through life with God, his parents' legacy became his own personal belief.**
- **Understand that a simple life of devotion to the Lord is joyful. We don't need things to make us happy. We need a strong relationship to the Lord.**

Applications For Us

■ Consideration:

– His Humility / Luke 3:16, 30; Matthew 3:14

- He clearly understood who he was, and more importantly, who he was not.
- As others flocked to him, he took the chance to give glory to God rather than accept accolades.
- Do not crave attention or respect from men.
- He displayed unselfishness.



Applications For Us

■ Consideration:

– His Obedience / Luke 3:3

- John's life had been anointed for God's purpose, he could have chosen another path.
- His submission to God was deeply rooted and stood firm, through his early hardships in the wilderness to his suffering in prison.
- Examine your life to see if we have fruit or not.
- We should evaluate our own lives, not based on a past decision of faith, but based on our life right now, based on our actions right now.
 - Are we living a life for God? Are we living in sin? If we are living in sin, we need to repent, which means real change.