

Lesson I.

JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS

January 6, 1918

Mark 1: 1-11. *Scripture Memory Verse, 1 Sam. 3: 1.

Golden Text—Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.—John 1: 29 (Rev. Ver.).



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11—And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Many hundred years ago God sent two baby boys into the world. The baby John came to one mother, and not long after, the baby Jesus came to another mother.

The baby John grew to be a wonderful man, because God himself was his teacher, but the baby Jesus grew to be a far more wonderful man, because God was his Father.

When John grew up, God told him about the other baby boy, now grown to be a man, and God commanded John to go through the land of Judea telling people about this wonderful one whose name was Jesus, who was coming to save people from sin.

So John went here and there along the country roads and beside the Jordan River, crying out to everybody he met. "Ho! the

1 The beginning of the gospel of Je'sus Christ, the Son of God;

2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5 And there went out unto him all the land of Jude'a, and they of Jeru'salem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jor'dan, confessing their sins.

6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

8 I indeed have baptized you with water; but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Je'sus came from Naz'areth of Gal'ilee, and was baptized of John in Jor'dan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11—And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I

great one is coming! Get ready for him! Be sorry for your sins and be baptized and forgiven! Repent! Repent!" John cried. The old prophets long, long years before this had told God's people that this very thing would happen.

If you had seen John, you would have thought he was a very strange looking preacher indeed. He wore a long, rough coat made of the camel's hair, and a girdle of leather tied around his waist. His feet and head were bare. His food was the honey which the wild bees stored away in the hollow trees, and for meat he ate the locusts which flitted amongst the branches.

"Are you this great one?" some asked. "No indeed," said John. "There is one coming after me who is mightier than I, the

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