

When God Begins To Move

Preparing The Way For Jesus — Luke 3:1-20

I. The Silence

From the death of Moses until Artaxerxes (c. 465 B.C.), the prophets wrote the history of the events of their own times. . . From Artaxerxes to our own time (c. 100 A.D.) the complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets (Josephus, Against Apion 1.41).

II. The Suffering

For example, two women were brought in for having circumcised their children. They publicly paraded them around the city, with their babies hanging at their breasts, and then hurled them down headlong from the wall (2 Maccabees 6:10).

13:1 — [They] told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

III. When God Begins To Move

➡ Things Are _____ As They _____

1:1-3 — Tiberius Caesar. . . Pontius Pilate. . . Herod. . . Philip. . . Lysanias. . . Annas. . . Caiaphas. . . John

➡ The Problem Is With _____ — Not With _____

3:7-8 — “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin 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.”

3:10-14 — “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise. . . . Collect no more than you are authorized to do. . . . Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

➡ Get Ready To _____

3:3 — And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

➡ Get Ready To _____

3:15-17 — As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

3:18 — So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.