

THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, PART 1  
(Matthew 3:1-2)

I. John's COMING (Matt. 3:1)

- A. He came "in THOSE DAYS"
- B. He is called "John the BAPTIST"
- C. "In those days" John "ARRIVED"
  - 1. He was PREACHING
  - 2. He was "in the WILDERNESS of Judea"

II. John's MESSAGE (Matt. 3:2)

- A. Its essence was "REPENT"
  - 1. Not DOING PENANCE
  - 2. Not just a CHANGE of MIND
  - 3. Not just SORROW or GRIEF
  - 4. Indicates CONVERSION that results in a transformed LIFE
- B. Its urgency was because "the Kingdom of HEAVEN is AT HAND"
  - [1. The Kingdom has TWO ASPECTS]

- [a. The EXTERNAL—All those who PROFESS to believe]
- [b. The INTERNAL—Those who TRULY believe]
- [2. The Kingdom has FOUR STAGES]
  - [a. The INTRODUCTORY Kingdom (3:2; cf. 4:17)]
  - [b. The PRESENT Kingdom (cf. Luke 17:21; Rom. 14:17)]
  - [c. The MILLENNIAL Kingdom (cf. Rev. 19:15; 20:1-5)]
  - [d. The ETERNAL Kingdom (cf. Rev. 20:6 – 22:20)]
- 3. The practical IMPACT of John’s proclamation
  - a. The KING they’d long awaited would SOON APPEAR
  - b. They were NOT READY