

THE MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
(Matthew 3:7-12)

- I. Addressed to an UNEXPECTED Audience (Matt. 3:7a)
 - A. MANY of the PHARISEES
 - B. MANY of the SADDUCEES
 - C. They came “FOR BAPTISM”
 - 1. May mean they came to EXPERIENCE John’s baptism
 - 1. May mean they came to OBSERVE John’s baptism

- II. Pronounced an INEVITABLE Judgment (Matt. 3:7b-12)
 - A. Began as a SCORNFUL rebuke (3:7a)
 - 1. Called them “BROOD of VIPERS” (cf. Matt. 12:34; 23:33)
 - 2. Asked who WARNED them to FLEE
 - B. Demanded EVIDENCE of REPENTANCE (3:8; cf. Luke 3:7-14; also Acts 26:20)
 - 1. Begins with acknowledging PERSONAL SIN
 - 2. Includes GRIEF for DEFYING GOD
 - 3. Results in a CHANGED life of GOOD WORKS

- C. Denied that their HERITAGE was SUFFICIENT (3:9)
 - 1. Being children of ABRAHAM did not make them children of GOD
 - 2. TRUE children of Abraham didn't need to be DESCENDED from Abraham

- D. Implied their DOOM was IMMINENT (3:10; cf. Mal. 4:1)
 - 1. They will be ROOTED OUT
 - 2. They will be BURNED

- E. Indicated that RESCUE was AVAILABLE (3:11)
 - 1. The King who was coming was GREATER than John
 - 2. The King's baptism would DIFFER from John's
 - a. The BELIEVER is baptized with the HOLY SPIRIT
 - b. The UNBELIEVER will be baptized with FIRE

- F. Described a divine SEPARATION for JUDGMENT (3:12)
 - 1. Christ will THRESH His HARVEST
 - 2. Christ will SECURE His "WHEAT"
 - 3. Christ will cast the "CHAFF" into "unquenchable FIRE"