



Believe

JOHN

[MESSAGE](#)[STUDY GUIDE](#)[GROUP MATERIAL](#)[SONGS](#)

Preparing the Way of the Lord

Bible Reading: John 1:19-28

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

Background

- A. Israel in bondage in Egypt
 - 1. Returning to the land by crossing the Jordan
 - 2. Crossing the Jordan to be in the land God prepared for them
 - 3. With the blessing of the land, the temple and God's presence
- B. Israel goes into captivity – from Jerusalem to Babylon
 - 1. Falling away from right relationship with God
 - 2. Losing the glory of God – the presence and right relationship with God
- C. Failed return
 - 1. Returned but still in captivity
 - 2. Rebuild the temple but still no glory of God
 - 3. Under foreign domination; kingship not restored
 - 4. Thinking they are ok when they are not
 - 5. Still waiting for the real return from exile
 - 6. Waiting for the Messiah

John the Baptist

- A. Questioned by the Jewish leaders
 - 1. Because he was baptizing people
 - 2. One who baptizes is a kind of messianic figure

- B. Who he is – “Who are you?” – John 1:6-8
 - 1. Sent from God
 - 2. A witness to testify about the light
- C. Who he isn't – 1:20-21
 - 1. Not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor “the Prophet”
- D. His declaration – v. 23; Isa. 40:3
 - 1. I am a voice
 - 2. I am here to make straight the way of the Lord
 - 3. Preparing them for a new exodus – they are still in captivity
 - 4. John is baptizing on the east side of the Jordan – indicating where they are spiritually
 - 5. John points people to the one coming – Christ, the Messiah, who is Jesus
- E. Baptizing people – calling people to get ready for the coming Messiah
 - 1. On east side of Jordan – implying they have not yet left their exile
 - 2. This baptism is different from believers' baptism. It only prepared people for the coming of Christ.
 - 3. This baptism is challenging their false assurance, false sense of security, that they are alright

Our response

- A. We need to be in a right condition – where are you?
 - 1. Our experience may mirror Israel's history
 - 2. At one time in a great relationship, but now cooled off
 - 3. Is God calling you to restore of your relationship with Him?
 - 1. Come back from your “Covid cool-off”
 - 2. Be rescued from false assurance of merely doing things
 - 3. Re-establish your personal time
 - 4. Gather together
 - 5. Serve i.e., kid's ministry