

Cultural, Historical, and Geographic Significance



Luke 3:1-18 / Matthew 3:1-12 / Mark 1:1-8 / John 1:19-28



2

Acts 17:11 (ESV)

Now these (Berean) Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

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3

God, we praise You for your intricately designed Word which teaches us how to follow You. Now guard our minds and our hearts and draw us closer to you as we study. Let us study so that we may become *talmidim* (disciples) that are doers of your word.

Give us "Acts 17:11" discernment.

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah. **יְהוָה**.



4

Roadmap



- Historical/Geographic Overview
- The prophesied voice in the wilderness
- John's Gospel of Repentance
- Separation of wheat from the chaff
- "These stones" = miraculous Jordan crossing under Joshua



5

<p>Matthew 3:1</p>	<p>Luke 3:1-2</p>
<p>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, Mark 1:1,4</p>	<p>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod (Antipas) being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.</p>
<p>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...John appeared baptizing in the wilderness</p>	



6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...

9-2 Political Borders at the Time of Jesus (Sons of Herod and Procurators) 9-2

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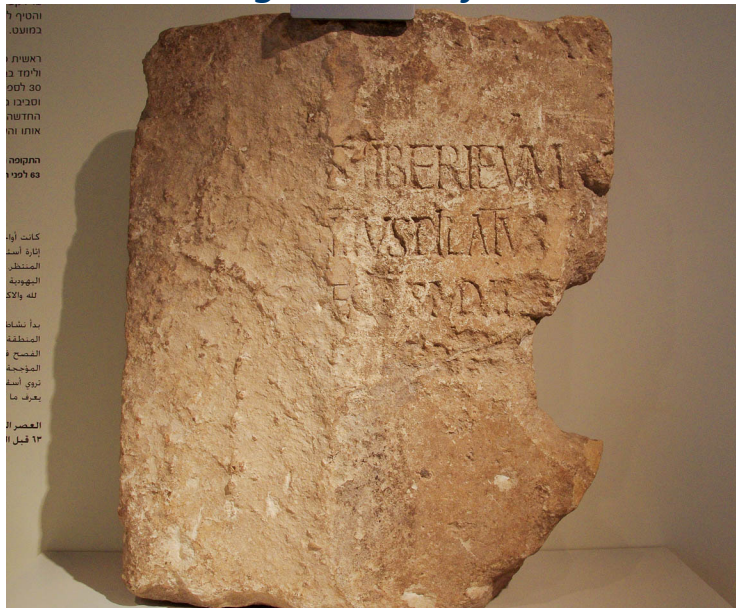
- Archelaus 4 BC-6 AD
- Philip 4 BC-34 AD
- Antipas 4 BC-39 AD
- Procurators 6-41 AD, 44-66 AD

Regional center: **Caesarea**

Luke 3:1

7

When Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea



Pontius Pilate limestone dedicatory inscription, AD 26–36, from Caesarea

Luke 3:1

8

Herod was tetrarch of Galilee



Sea of Galilee and Plain of Gennesaret from Arbel

Luke 3:1

9

In the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas

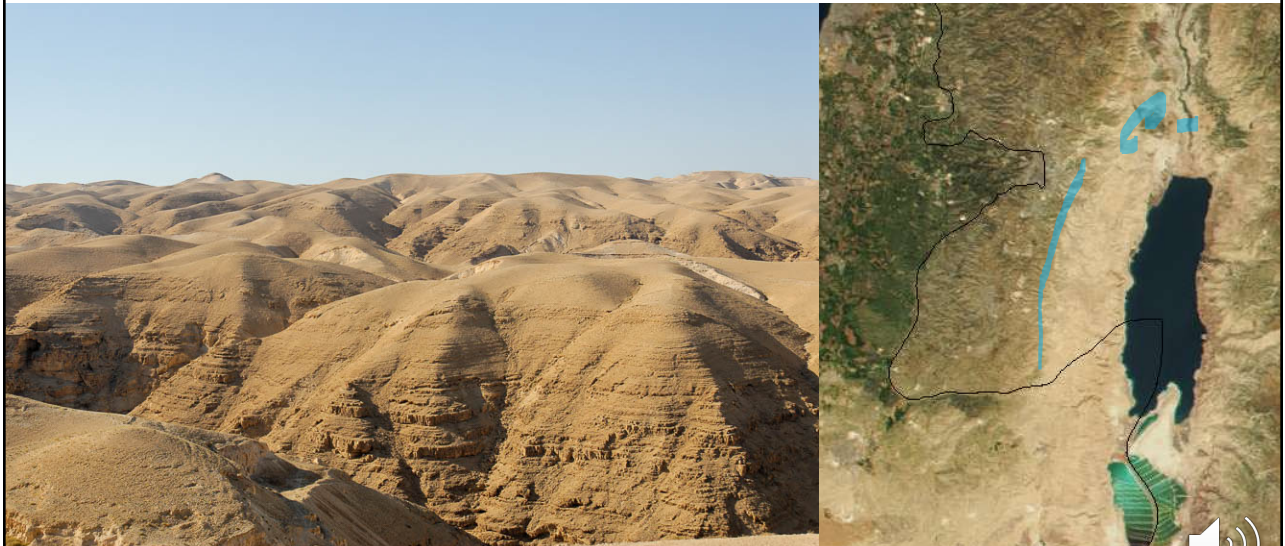


Ossuary of Caiaphas, from Jerusalem, 1st century AD

 Luke 3:2

10

The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness



Judean wilderness west of Jericho

 Luke 3:2

11

the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.



Qumran (from the southwest)

 Luke 3:2

12

<p>Matthew 3:2-3</p> <p>2 (preaching) “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”</p> <p>3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”</p>	<p>Luke 3:3-6</p> <p>3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.</p> <p>4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</p> <p>5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,</p> <p>6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”</p>
<p>Mark 1:2-4</p> <p>2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,</p> <p>3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”</p> <p>4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.</p>	<p>John 1:23</p> <p>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”</p> <p></p>

13

He went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance



Jordan River at Yardenit

1 Pe 3:21 Baptism, which corresponds to this (the Flood of Noah), now saves you, **not as a removal of dirt from the body** but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,



LUKE 3:3

14

Mark's Midrash ("Mash-up")

Mark 1:2-3 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I **send my messenger** before your face, who will **prepare your way**, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: '**Prepare the way** of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

Exo 23:20 "**Behold, I send an angel/messenger** before you to guard you on the **way** and to bring you to the place that I have **prepared**."

Mal 3:1 "**Behold, I send my messenger**, and he will **prepare the way** before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts."

Isa 40:3-4 A voice cries: "In the wilderness **prepare the way** of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. [4] Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain."



15

<p>Matthew 3:4-6</p> <p>4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.</p> <p>5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him,</p> <p>6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.</p>	<p>Mark 1:5-6</p> <p>5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.</p> <p>6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.</p> <hr/> <p>Luke 7:33</p> <p>For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine</p>
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16

<p><i>Cross References</i></p> <p>2Ki 1:8 They answered him, “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”</p> <p>Deu 29:5-6 I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet. [6] You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.</p>
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17

John was clothed with camel's hair



Camel in the Judean wilderness

 Mark 1:6

18

John . . . ate locusts and wild honey



Display of dates and date honey

 Mark 1:6

19

Matthew 3:7-10	Luke 3:7-14
<p>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume 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. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.</p>	<p>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “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. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”</p>



20

“You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”



Palestine viper



21

“Bear fruits in keeping with repentance!”



Pomegranates on tree at Lachish



22

Memory Verse



Bear fruit in keeping with
repentance.



23

Walking In His Dust

Talmidim show our faith by our works



Galatians 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to everyone**, and especially to those who are of the **household of faith**.




24

Joshua 4:1-9 “These Stones”


When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, “Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, and command them, saying, ‘Take **twelve stones** from here **out of the midst of the Jordan**, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’” ...When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So **these stones** shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”



25

Mat 21:32	Luke 3:10-14
<p>For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.</p>	<p>10 And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” 11 And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” 13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”</p> 

26

Luke 3:15	John 1:19-25
<p>15 As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ,</p>	<p>And this is the testimony of John, when the <i>Ioudaioi</i> sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “<i>I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.</i>” (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”</p> 

27

Matthew 3:11	Mark 1:7-8	Luke 3:16	John 1:26-28
<p>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.</p>	<p>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.</p>



28

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

References:

Isa 44:3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Eze 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Joe 2:28-29 “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. [29] Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.



29

He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie



Sandal on bronze statue of Emperor Tiberius, from Herculaneum, AD 37

John 1:27 

30




These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing



Jordan River at Bethany beyond the Jordan

John 1:28 

31

Matthew 3:12	Luke 3:17-18	Malachi 4:1,5-6
<p>12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”</p>	<p>17 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.” 18 So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.</p>	<p>“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”</p>
		

32

Lesson 6 Application



“What then shall we do?”



33

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