

Heralding the King Matthew 3

As a human He will live by power of God's Spirit
His ministry will be under control of the Spirit
The Father speaks from heaven
This is my beloved Son
In Him I am well pleased

I. John the Baptist – 3:1-10

1. Heralds announce the King's coming
This is common procedure with royalty
Preparations are made for a king's coming
2. John announces Kingdom of Heaven – 1-2
Preaches in wilderness – outside religious realm
Calls for repentance – Norm is not acceptable
Kingdom of Heaven requires inward change
3. Herald is predicted in Isaiah 40:3-3
Preparation is necessary to please the King
The King's way requires change
4. John comes in humbleness - 4
Clothed in animal skins
Eating locusts & wild honey
5. Many responded to his message – 5-6
They acknowledge their sin and repented
They were baptized to confirm this
6. Religious leaders are rebuked – 7-10
He called for genuine repentance
He challenged their claim as Abraham's seed
Without repentance judgment will come
Trees not producing good fruit will be cut down
They will be cast into the fire

II. The King is introduced – 3:11-12

- As Herald, John's ministry is to proclaim the King
1. King's baptism is greater than John's - 11
John baptizes with water as a sign of repentance
This is external and symbolic
Jesus will baptize with the Spirit and with fire
This is internal and transforming
 2. The King is far greater than His herald – 11
John is not worthy to even carry His sandals
 3. King will ultimately judge all humans – 12
He will separate the chaff from the grain
He will gather His wheat into the barn
He will burn the chaff with unquenchable fire

III. Heaven's Confirmation – 3:13-17

1. Jesus came to be baptized by John – 13-15
John declined to baptize Jesus
He is not worthy to baptize Jesus
Jesus said it is necessary to be done – 15
As man, He is a humble servant,
He fulfills righteousness
2. God speaks to confirm the King – 16-17
At His baptism there is a public declaration
The Spirit of God descends upon Jesus