

Magna Vox

Luke 3

How to be 'other worldly'?

- Essenes left world for wilderness
- Monks left world for wilderness
- John could not fulfill his mission by moving sinners to wilderness
 - They (we) must change lives, not location

I. The Revelation

Context:

- 1-2a: **When? Who? Where?** Greatest men on earth...
- 2b: **When? Who?** John, a 'nobody'?
 - Match birth? Life? Convictions? 7:28
 - Match commission?
 - Match eternal reward?
- 3: **Where? What? Why?**
- 4-6: In addition, forgiveness – prepared people; fulfilled prophecy

4-6 –

- Voice: power of words (God's word)
- Way: prepared for Lord
- Make straight paths
 - Contrast: Low(ly) valley filled
 - Contrast: Mountain / hill (bring low)
 - Contrast: Rough – smooth
- All flesh: ultimate target. Gn.12:3

Context:

- 7: Voice sent from God speaks.
- 8: Fruits worthy of repentance.
- 9: Tree and axe.
- 10: sincere people want more information (11-14).

I. The Revelation

II. The Reaction

What made John 'Magna Vox'?

1. He gave them evidence:
a conviction for faith

1. Zacharias & Elizabeth: ¹old; ²barren
2. Zacharias: mute till birth of John
3. John: fulfilled prophecy, Is.40; Mal.4
4. John: miracle baby; prepared / persuaded people, Jn.1
5. John: identified Jesus, Jn.3:21-22

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5. John: identified Jesus, Jn.3:21-22
 - Lk.3:15
 - Lk.7:29-30

- ¹ John's voice was God's voice,
Lk.3:2-3 [Mt.4:17; Mk.6:12]
- ² John is 'voice'; Jesus is 'Word,' Jn.1
- ³ John's voice was not better felt than told, or wishful thinking, but divine revelation
- ⁴ John's voice prepared way of 'LORD'
 - Here, of Jesus.
 - King coming. Mend not roads but lives.

John's call to repentance is **how** he prepared the path for Jesus

Luke gives dates, offices, names, places... Ac.2:22

- We can 'know'
- Lk.3:1, Lysanias, Tetrarch of Abilene
 - One known to historians: killed 36 BC
 - Inscription – dated between AD 14-29

“Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy...this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians” – Wm. Ramsay

2. He showed them their sin: a condition to fear

Preached baptism of repentance for remission of sins, Lk.3:3.

Baptism was not unknown to Jews (ritual washings, Hb.6:4; 9:10).

Gentiles were 'unclean'; subjected proselytes to baptism.

John startled them: Jewish baptism.

Baptism pictured death to old life, Ro.6.

2. He showed them their sin: a condition to fear

Lk.3:7, does it matter what we believe? If not, why send Voice?

Snakes – first necessity of salvation: understanding our condition

Coming – future judgment; certainty

3. He preached repentance: a correction to follow

Lk.3:8, requires fruits – change of life

God requires NOT family tree, BUT
fruit tree. Ga.3:7

Wordplay: 'stones' – 'sons'

Lk.3:9: axe / fire – no favored nation
status

Lk.3:10, what shall we do? Repent:

afterthought

change of mind

3. He preached repentance: a correction to follow

Lk.3:11, selfish, materialistic people:
learn to share. Ac.9. Lk.12.

Lk.3:12-13, honesty, truth, fairness.
Lk.19

Lk.3:14, kindness. Lk.23:47