

The Bible's Mysteries

Introduction

The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness

By the Holy Ghost in the New Testament, when John the Baptist proclaimed the approach of Christ. When eastern princes marched through desert countries, ways were prepared for them, and hinderances removed. And may the Lord prepare our hearts by the teaching of his word and the convictions of his Spirit, that high and proud thoughts may be brought down, good desires planted, crooked and rugged tempers made straight and softened, and every hinderance removed, that we may be ready for his will on earth, and prepared for his heavenly kingdom.



The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. [Isaiah 40:3](#)

The time to favour Zion, yea, the set time, having come, the people of God must be prepared, by repentance and faith, for the favours designed them; and, in order to call them to both these, we have here *the voice of one crying in the wilderness*, which *may* be applied to those prophets who were with the captives in their wilderness-state, and who, when they saw the day of their deliverance dawn, called earnestly upon them to prepare for it, and assured them that all the difficulties which stood in the way of their deliverance should be got

over. It is a good sign that mercy is preparing for us if we find God's grace preparing us for it, **LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: Psalms 10:17.** But it *must* be applied to John the Baptist; for, though God was the speaker, he was *the voice of one crying in the wilderness*, and his business was to *prepare the way of the Lord*, to dispose men's minds for the reception and entertainment of the gospel of Christ.

The way of the Lord is prepared, by repentance for sin; that was it which John Baptist preached to all Judah and Jerusalem (**And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 3:2, Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, Matthew 3:5**), and thereby *made ready a people prepared for the Lord*, **And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17.**

The alarm is given; let all take notice of it at their peril; God is coming in a way of mercy, and we must prepare for him, **The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. Isaiah 40:3-5.** If we apply it to their captivity, it may be taken as a promise that, whatever difficulties lie in their way, when they return they shall be removed. This voice in the wilderness (divine power going along with it) sets pioneers on work to level the roads. But it may be taken as a call to duty, and it is the same duty that we are called to, in preparation for Christ's entrance into our souls.

We must get into such a frame of spirit as will dispose us to receive Christ and his gospel: *“Prepare you the way of the Lord; prepare yourselves for him, and let all that be suppressed which would be an obstruction to his entrance. Make room for Christ: Make straight a*

highway for him.” If he prepare the end for us, we ought surely to prepare the way for him. Prepare for the Saviour; *lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Psalms 24:7; Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Psalms 24:9.* Prepare for the salvation, the great salvation, and other minor deliverances. Let us get to be fit for them, and then God will work them out. Let us not stand in our own light, nor put a bar in our own door, but find, or make, a highway for him, even in that which was desert ground. This is that for which he waits to be gracious.

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**A Deep Study of the Combined Writings
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