

YOUTH



LEVEL 8

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 3



Preparing the Way for Christ's Coming

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# PREPARING THE WAY FOR CHRIST'S COMING

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**H**ave you ever served in a wedding ceremony or been involved in planning and giving a banquet or party? If you have, think back upon your experiences. What one thing, more than any other, determined the success—or failure—of that big event? If you said “PREPARATION,” you are right!

No important event, like a wedding, can be successful without proper preparation. Coronations of kings and inaugural ceremonies for presidents require much preparation. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong’s campaigns and meetings with heads of states require many hours—sometimes weeks—of preparation.

God knows the importance of preparation. He saw to it that the beginning of Christ’s ministry was prepared for sufficiently. This lesson will explain John the Baptist’s role in preparing for Christ’s first coming, and how God is preparing for Christ’s second coming and what *your part* is in that! Finally, this lesson will explain how Jesus Christ qualified to replace Satan as world ruler before His public ministry began, and how He began to prepare the foundational members of a team to assist Him in preaching the gospel to the world and to help rule the nations in the Millennium (Matt. 28:19; 19:28).

Do you have your Bible and a pen or pencil? Whenever a scripture is quoted with words missing, write the words that correctly

complete the quote in the blank spaces.

## **GOD CHOOSES ONE TO PREPARE THE WAY**

Sometimes when God has a specific purpose He wants someone to fulfill, He chooses the person before birth. God chose Samuel and Jeremiah before they were born. And it was the same with John the Baptist.

The events that led to the birth of John the Baptist are found in Luke chapter 1. John’s father, Zacharias, was a priest. He and his wife Elisabeth had wanted a child for some time, but Elisabeth was unable to have children. One day, while Zacharias was fulfilling his duties as a priest in the Temple, an angel of God appeared to him. The angel told him that Elisabeth would have a son and they were to name him John.

Notice in Luke 1:6 what God had to say about Zacharias and Elisabeth: “And they were \_\_\_\_\_ before God, walking in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and ordinances of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_.” God carefully chose the parents of John the Baptist, the one who would prepare the way for Christ. God knew that John would receive the proper training necessary to fulfill His purpose from parents who were obedient to God’s commandments.

Zacharias asked the angel how he could be sure that he and his wife would indeed have a son. He wondered if it was all just a dream. The angel replied that Zacharias would be unable to speak until John’s circumcision eight days after his birth.

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### **ABOUT OUR COVER . . .**

Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong speaks with President Mubarak of Egypt.

Y.E.S. Photo

## WHAT JOHN WAS TO DO

On the day of John's circumcision, Elisabeth's relatives said the boy should be named after his father. Elisabeth said no. So they asked Zacharias. Still unable to speak, he wrote, "His name is John." At that very moment, Zacharias was able to speak again. Both Zacharias and Elisabeth insisted he should be named John in accordance with God's command to do so. Immediately after this, Zacharias was inspired by God's Spirit to pronounce a prophecy. In it he described what John would do. Notice Luke 1:76-78: "And thou, child, shalt be called the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Highest: for thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ the face of the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_; To \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God."

The angel Gabriel also described John's commission when he announced his future



Keystone Press

Christ will soon replace all human rulers when He returns as King of kings over all the earth.

birth to Zacharias. Turn to Luke 1:15-17: "For he shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, even from his mother's womb. And \_\_\_\_\_ of the children of Israel shall he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ their God. And he shall \_\_\_\_\_ before him \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the just; to make \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord."

John the Baptist was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ's ministry by turning the people's attention back to God and the things of God. He was to lead the people to repent—to change the direction of their lives—so that they would begin to live by God's Law—the way of "give." Then when Christ began to preach in public, He would have a group of people from which a few could be chosen for special training.

## JOHN THE BAPTIST'S MINISTRY

Luke records in chapter 3 that John came into the area around the Jordan River preaching "the baptism of repentance for the remission [pardon or forgiveness] of sins" (verse 3). John told the people that they should be immersed (baptized) in water as an outward sign which would show the serious commitment they were making to live differently—to live in obedience to God's laws.

He taught the people that they should individually "bring forth therefore fruits worthy of [as proof of] repentance." He added that they should not expect to receive special spiritual treatment from God because their ancestor (Abraham) was a righteous man (verse 8). Rather, they would have to be righteous, too!

Many people did more than just listen to John! They realized that repentance and bringing forth

good fruits meant *doing* something. "What shall we do then?" they asked.

John's reply is in verses 11-14: "He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him \_\_\_\_\_ [give] to him that hath none; and he that hath meat [food], let him \_\_\_\_\_. Then came also publicans [tax collectors] to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, \_\_\_\_\_ [collect] \_\_\_\_\_ than that which is \_\_\_\_\_ [commanded] you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do \_\_\_\_\_ [intimidate or extort from] to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ any falsely; and be \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_." John the Baptist preached God's way of life—the way of "give"—to the people. He showed that God's way of living is summarized by His Ten Commandments. In the examples just quoted, he told the people they should not kill, steal, or lie (the Sixth, Eighth and Ninth Commandments).

John also taught about the soon-coming Government of God. Notice it in Matthew 3:1-2: "In those days came \_\_\_\_\_ the Baptist, \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, \_\_\_\_\_ ye: for the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_."

Since God's Government was going to be reestablished on this earth, Jesus came this first time in order to qualify to replace Satan as this earth's ruler. Then after He had qualified to replace Satan as ruler on earth, He would need competent, loyal persons to help Him rule when He returned to earth the second time—persons He could teach and train now to become His future assistants.

John preached the message of repentance for the remission of sins. Some began to change the way they had been living. Christ then called them, worked with them during their lifetime, and He will make them assistant rulers in His soon-coming Kingdom. This group of future

rulers are members of God's Church—regardless of whether they are presently alive, or dead in their graves awaiting the resurrection.

The angel Gabriel said that John would "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children" (Luke 1:17). Marriage and family relations was a subject that John undoubtedly emphasized heavily. Mark records that John the Baptist had told King Herod (Antipas) that he was sinning by living with his half-brother Philip's wife. Herod's wife and Philip were both still alive (Mark 6:18). John did not just suggest to Herod and Herodias that it was not a good thing to do. Rather, he boldly stated that it was against God's law! His boldness in proclaiming God's way led to his imprisonment and eventual death.

Throughout his ministry John the Baptist emphasized that he was only preparing the way for One to come; One much greater than he. Notice this in Mark 1:7-8: "And John preached, saying, There cometh \_\_\_\_\_



By emphasizing strong marriages and close family relationships, God's Church is preparing us to become a part of God's family.

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\_\_\_\_\_ than I \_\_\_\_\_ me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. \_\_\_\_\_ indeed have \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_: but \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.” John’s work would introduce the people to a new life of obedience to God’s commandments and Christ would provide the power of His Holy Spirit for that new life to be realized.

### PREPARING FOR THE SECOND COMING

Does John the Baptist’s work seem familiar to you? It should! In many ways it is similar to the Work God’s Church is doing today. Just as God prepared the way for Christ’s first coming by sending John the Baptist, so He is preparing the way for Christ’s second coming through the preaching of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the Work of the Worldwide Church of God.

The third chapter of the book of Malachi speaks of this preparation before Christ’s second coming. Notice verses 1 and 2: “Behold, I will send my \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple [the Church—see I Corinthians 3:16], even the messenger [Christ] of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap.”

John the Baptist was only a type of the fulfillment of this prophecy. The main fulfillment occurs shortly before Christ’s second coming. We know this because Christ did not judge those who did not fear Him (verses 3-5) at His first coming. But He will do that at His second coming!

Malachi tells more about this end-time preparation in chapter 4, verses 5-6: “Behold, I will send you \_\_\_\_\_ the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ the coming of the great and dreadful \_\_\_\_\_: And \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ the heart of the

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\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse [utter destruction].” Obviously, God does not mean the human prophet, Elijah the Tishbite, will do this. That Elijah died long ago. Rather, as John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah, so Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has also come in the same spirit and power of Elijah.

Mr. Armstrong, with the support of God’s Church, is preparing the way for Christ’s second coming. He is telling people to repent, to change from the carnal “get” way of life to God’s “give” way of life. He is proclaiming to the world that God’s Government (Kingdom) will soon be reestablished on this earth. He is emphasizing the importance of strong marriages and strong families so that people can receive the training necessary to fulfill God’s purpose for them, which is to become a part of His Family. Through God’s Church, His people are receiving the instruction and training necessary to assist Christ in administering God’s Government on earth when He returns. Mr. Armstrong, backed by the Church, is clearly preparing the way for the glorified Christ, just as John the Baptist did for Jesus and His message.

But what does the preparation for Christ’s return have to do with you? Plenty! You have a basic knowledge of some very important things. You know about the weekly Sabbath and the Holy Days. You probably realize that Christ will return to this earth soon; that He will set up God’s Kingdom (Government) on this earth; that your parents talk of someday becoming immortal sons of God—a part of God’s Family—ruling as kings with Christ.

This knowledge is a tremendous advantage God gives you over all other young people on the face of this earth! You have this knowledge because either one or both of your parents are members of God’s Church. You are not cut off from God as the children in the world. In a few years, God will also call you to conversion to begin training you intensively for rulership

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with Him in the Millennium. But you already have a head start! What a tremendous privilege and opportunity to be brought up in God's Church.

In the meantime, you can also have a part in helping to prepare the way for Christ's return to rule the earth. Support God's Apostle. Support God's Church and attend services with your parents. And do take an active part in the activities provided for the youth in God's Church!

### How Well Do You Remember?

Directions: Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. When the angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that Elisabeth would have a son, what did Gabriel say John (the Baptist) would do?
  - A. Turn many Israelites to their God.
  - B. Turn the hearts of the fathers to the children.
  - C. Make ready a repentant people prepared for Jesus Christ.
  - D. All of the above.
  - E. None of the above.
2. Which of the following did John the Baptist *not* preach?
  - A. Doing works to show one's repentance.
  - B. The Kingdom of Heaven.
  - C. The Ten Commandments should not be obeyed.
  - D. All of the above.
  - E. None of the above.
3. John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ's
  - A. second coming.
  - B. first coming.
  - C. third coming.
  - D. All of the above.
  - E. None of the above.
4. God is preparing the way for Christ's second coming through
  - A. Elijah the Tishbite.
  - B. John the Baptist.

- C. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God.
  - D. All of the above.
  - E. None of the above.
5. The knowledge you have of God's truth is
    - A. a tremendous advantage in preparing for the future.
    - B. a disadvantage now and in the future.
    - C. can't help you prepare for a wonderful future.
    - D. All of the above.
    - E. None of the above.

### JESUS BAPTIZED BY JOHN

During John the Baptist's ministry and shortly before the beginning of Christ's ministry, Jesus came to John near the Jordan River to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent it, saying, "Why do You want to be baptized by me when I am the one who needs to be baptized by You?"

Jesus' reply is found in Matthew 3:15: "Suffer [permit] it to be so now: for thus it becometh us [it is proper or right for us] to \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_." John knew that Christ had not sinned and therefore did not need to be baptized. But Christ insisted on baptism because He knew that it was proper for Him to do so to perform fully ("fulfill") all that is right in God's sight to do. Therefore he was baptized as an *example* for all who would become Christians. By doing so, Christ also affirmed His commitment to God the Father that He would accomplish His purpose.

John baptized Jesus by totally immersing Him in the waters of the river Jordan. Then after Jesus was baptized, God gave a special sign to show that He was indeed the Son of God. The Holy Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Jesus Christ and a voice came out of heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

John the Baptist's reaction to this is mentioned in the Gospel of John. Notice verses 32-34 of chapter 1: "And John [the Baptist]

bare record, saying, I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him [Christ]. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, \_\_\_\_\_ thou shalt see the \_\_\_\_\_, and remaining on him, the \_\_\_\_\_ is he which \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ . And I saw, and bare record that \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ .”

### GREATEST BATTLE IN HISTORY

Jesus Christ came to this earth for many reasons. Many of you realize that He came to die for us—to pay the penalty of death our sins have brought upon us. Perhaps you also know that He came to start His Church for the training of His future assistant rulers. But do you understand that Christ came to qualify to replace Satan as the ruler of this world?

After His baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the Judean wilderness where God intended that He should be tried and tested. Jesus Christ had to prove that He would rule according to the law of God—that He would never reject God’s government as Satan had. So, while God did not tempt Jesus, He did allow Christ to enter into the greatest spiritual battle of all time—a battle with Satan for world rulership.

Satan welcomed the opportunity to tempt Jesus Christ to disobey God. He was confident that he could overthrow the human Jesus—just as he had previously overthrown Adam and Eve. He would show God the impossibility of His plan to make sons of God out of human beings. Satan was determined to destroy God’s plan.

Jesus did not underestimate the power of His opponent! He knew that as a human being He was no match for Satan. He knew that the strength and power to overcome Satan must come from God through His Holy Spirit, since only God had more power than Satan. So prior



Photo by Kluger

Jesus Christ won the greatest battle in history here in the Judean wilderness!

to that spiritual battle, Jesus fasted for forty days and nights—not eating or drinking anything—in order to be so close to God that He could be certain of receiving the spiritual power and strength He needed to defeat Satan.

The stakes were the highest possible! Either Christ through God’s power qualified to replace Satan as world ruler by overcoming him, or else Satan would forever thwart God’s plan to bring many sons into the God Family by defeating Christ who was sent to be the savior of mankind.

After Christ had fasted forty days and nights, Satan tempted Him—working on Him to reject God and His way. Satan decided to mount his greatest attack on Christ and win this battle for world rulership once and for all!

The first phase of Satan’s attack during this battle for rulership over the entire earth is mentioned in Matthew 4:1-11, beginning with verse 3: “And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” Satan challenged the fact that Christ was the Son of

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God (“if thou be the Son of God”). Satan subtly tried to get Christ to doubt it just enough to want to prove that He was in fact God’s Son. If Satan could get Jesus to obey him in anything, he knew Christ would be disqualified to replace him as earth’s ruler. By obedience to any of Satan’s commands or suggestions, Jesus would have proven Himself subject to Satan.

Notice also how Satan used Christ’s physical condition to try to overthrow Him. Christ was obviously extremely hungry and thirsty after fasting forty days and nights. In His weakened physical condition the desire for food and drink must have been enormous! Satan tried to get Christ’s mind onto physical things in order to overthrow Him. Satan may have reminded Jesus that God had not commanded Him to fast, so it was not disobeying God to stop the fast when He so chose. The decision was Christ’s, Satan might have added. The decision was truly Christ’s, but the suggestion was definitely Satan’s! Christ’s mind was not on physical things, however. His fasting had focused His mind on the spiritual things of God!

Matthew 4:4 contains Jesus’ answer to Satan: “But He answered and said, It is written, \_\_\_\_\_ shall not \_\_\_\_\_ by bread alone, but \_\_\_\_\_ that proceedeth out of the mouth \_\_\_\_\_.” Jesus Christ explained that life does not consist of just physical things, but also of the spiritual things of God—what God says and wants us to do. And He showed by His statement that the spiritual things, obeying God’s Word, were the most important to Him.

Satan then decided to take Jesus to Jerusalem and set Him on a pinnacle (high point) of the Temple. “If thou be the Son of God,” Satan again said, “cast thyself down: for it is written, he shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Matthew 4:5-6). Satan

was quoting from Psalm 91 in which God describes what He will do for those who obey and trust in Him. Satan quoted the scripture correctly, but he misapplied it.

Satan again challenged Christ with “if you are the Son of God” in order to get Jesus to act on emotion to prove to Satan that He really was God’s Son. By so doing He would have obeyed Satan—thus losing the opportunity to replace Satan as world ruler. But He didn’t lose this battle. He *won* it!

During this temptation, Satan may have also mentioned to Jesus that since His life had such a spiritual direction toward God, surely Psalm 91 applied to Him more than any other human. And didn’t He, Christ, want to be sure God would keep this promise to Him before He allowed Himself to be crucified? After all, how sure could He be that God was going to keep His promise and resurrect Him after His crucifixion if God could not or would not keep this promise?

Satan may have reminded Jesus that He was human and could not by Himself defeat Satan. How sure was He that God was present to help Him? Was He afraid to jump because He just might find out God wasn’t there to help Him? Satan undoubtedly had much more to say than the one sentence recorded in the Bible in trying to get Christ to obey him.

After Satan had finished talking, Christ responded, “It is written, Thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord thy \_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 4:7). Jesus Christ realized Satan was trying to get Him to act rashly and emotionally. He recognized Satan’s attempts to put doubt in His mind about God and His promises and His own relationship with the Father. Jesus understood that He should not tempt God by doing some act with the purpose of getting God to react in a specific way—just to see if God would.

Unsuccessful with the first two temptations, Satan tried a third one. He took Christ to the top of a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory



(magnificence). “All these things will I give You,” Satan offered, “if You will fall down and worship me.”

Satan may have added that Jesus would only have to worship him this one time. “You could be king over all the earth *now*, instead of having to wait 2,000 years,” Satan might have said. “And wouldn’t it be much easier to get rulership (which the Father wants you to have, anyway) by doing it my way than to do it God’s way, which means you are going to have to be crucified?”

Jesus Christ did not argue about Satan’s claim to the kingdoms of this world. II Corinthians 4:4 states that Satan is the god of this world. The kingdoms of this world were his to give. But notice Christ’s reply to Satan’s offer in Matthew 4:10: “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord thy \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ shalt thou \_\_\_\_\_.”

The battle ended! Jesus Christ was the victor and He had qualified to replace Satan as ruler of the earth!

Satan now left Jesus alone. Immediately, God’s angels came to serve Him food and drink. But as Luke adds, Satan departed only for a while (Luke 4:13). Satan doesn’t give up

easily. He is determined, even yet, to thwart God’s plan—if he can!

### CHRIST PREPARES A TEAM

After Christ qualified to replace Satan as world ruler, He began to choose a team of people whom He would train to help Him rule in the future. This team began with the twelve disciples who became apostles. Christ expanded that group to include many others. All of these compose the whole Church of God to this very day.

A disciple is a student or learner. The twelve disciples followed Jesus Christ and learned God’s way from His teaching and from their experiences with Him. Jesus taught them God’s way of life by both His words and His example. He wanted them to learn to rule and govern with Him in God’s Kingdom. He also told them to teach all nations what He had taught them (Matthew 28:19-20).

Among the first disciples Christ called were Andrew and his brother, Simon. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. One day he and a companion were with John when Jesus walked by them. “Behold the Lamb of God!” said John the Baptist (John 1:36). Andrew and his companion knew that John had always said he



Just as teamwork is necessary for a canoe to go forward in the right direction, so teamwork between members of God’s Church is necessary to do God’s Work today.

Y.E.S. Photo

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was preparing the way for the Christ—the promised Messiah. “This must be Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah,” Andrew may have mused to himself.

Andrew and his friend immediately left John and followed Christ. Realizing someone was following Him, Jesus turned and asked what they were looking for. They asked Him where He lived, because they wanted to talk to Him.

Christ invited Andrew and the other disciple of John to His home. This was about four o’clock in the afternoon. Jesus explained many things to them during the remainder of the day.

Thrilled about finding the Messiah, Andrew left to find his brother, Simon. Excitedly he told him, “We have found the Messiah!” Andrew began to tell him about his conversation with Jesus that afternoon and urged Simon to go with him to Christ’s house to see for himself that Jesus was indeed the Christ!

Together they left and soon arrived at Jesus’ house. Notice what Jesus said to Simon Peter: “And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art \_\_\_\_\_ the son of Jona: thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_, which is by interpretation, A \_\_\_\_\_ [Peter; Petros]” (John 1:42). When He called Simon to be a disciple, Jesus gave him the title of Peter. The importance of this will be discussed in detail in a later lesson. Just realize for now that it involves Simon being the chief apostle.

The next day Jesus called Philip to be His disciple. Philip was from the same city as Andrew and Simon Peter and may have already known them.

Philip realized that Jesus of Nazareth must be the Messiah because the description written in the Law and Prophets (books of the Old Testament) fit Jesus perfectly. Philip quickly found his friend Nathanael to tell him the news. “We have found him,” he excitedly began, “of whom Moses in the law, and the

prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45).

Now Nathanael (also called Bartholomew) was cautious about Philip’s claim. “Where in the Scriptures does it say that any prophet will come from Nazareth—much less the Messiah?” he questioned. “The Christ is to be born in Bethlehem according to the Scriptures,” he may have added.

Philip invited him to come and see Jesus for himself. Philip knew Nathanael would be convinced if he talked with Christ.

As they approached Jesus, He said of Nathanael, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile [deceit]!” (John 1:47.)

“How do You know me?” asked Nathanael, quite surprised.

Jesus replied, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you!”

“How could He have possibly known where I was?” Nathanael wondered. “God must have revealed it to Him!”

“Rabbi,” Nathanael said, “You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!”

“Do you believe just because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?” Christ asked. “You will see much greater things than that, Nathanael! You will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man!”

Nathanael became the fifth disciple. These five were the first of the disciples Jesus would call.

### **CHRIST’S FIRST MIRACLE**

On the following day, Jesus, His mother and the disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11). It was a large celebration with much food and wine, but the servants ran out of wine to serve to the guests. Mary, Jesus’ mother, told Him about the problem, hoping He would help.

“Why do you want me to help?” Jesus asked. “It is not the right time for me to do something that will draw a lot of attention.”

Mary did not know what Jesus was going to do, but she was confident that He would help.

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“Whatever He tells you to do, do it,” she told the servants.

Christ ordered six waterpots, each holding about twenty gallons, to be filled with water. Then He told the servants to begin filling the guests’ cups! What was water moments before had now become wine! Most people at the wedding feast had no idea where the wine had come from. (Only the servants and disciples of Jesus knew.) The host of the feast even commented to the bridegroom that this wine was far better than that served at the beginning of the feast!

This was the beginning of the miracles Christ performed. It also showed God’s great power and glory. It also helped to deepen and strengthen the disciples’ belief that Jesus was the Christ.

In this lesson you have seen how God used John the Baptist to prepare the way for Christ’s first coming and how God is preparing the way for Christ’s second coming through Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the World-wide Church of God.

You have seen how Jesus qualified to replace Satan as world ruler and how He then began a program to train future assistant rulers by calling His disciples.

In the next lesson you will learn about Christ’s early ministry—what He taught, where He went, what He did—and what it all has to do with you! Don’t miss it!

### How Well Do You Remember?

Directions: Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- Jesus Christ was baptized because
  - He had just repented of His sins.
  - He wanted to do it as an example to those who would become Christians.
  - John the Baptist insisted Jesus be baptized.
  - All of the above.
  - None of the above.
- “Baptize” means to
  - sprinkle water on.

- pour water on.
  - immerse completely in water.
  - All of the above.
  - None of the above.
- By overcoming Satan’s temptations, Jesus Christ
    - qualified to replace Satan as ruler of this earth.
    - replaced Satan as ruler of this earth nearly 2000 years ago.
    - gave us eternal life.
    - All of the above.
    - None of the above.
  - Which one of the following was one of the three great temptations Satan placed before Jesus Christ?
    - Change stones into bread to satisfy His physical hunger.
    - Jump down from a high place to see if God would keep His promise of protection.
    - Obey Satan and Christ would then receive power over the whole earth.
    - All of the above.
    - None of the above.
  - A disciple is
    - one sent with authority to bind and loose.
    - a learner.
    - an apostle.
    - All of the above.
    - None of the above.
  - Which is a pair of brothers who became disciples of Jesus Christ?
    - Philip and Nathanael.
    - Andrew and Philip.
    - Simon Peter and Bartholomew.
    - All of the above.
    - None of the above.
  - Jesus changed the name of Simon the son of Jona to
    - Cephas.
    - a name meaning “a stone.”
    - Petros or Peter.
    - All of the above.
    - None of the above.
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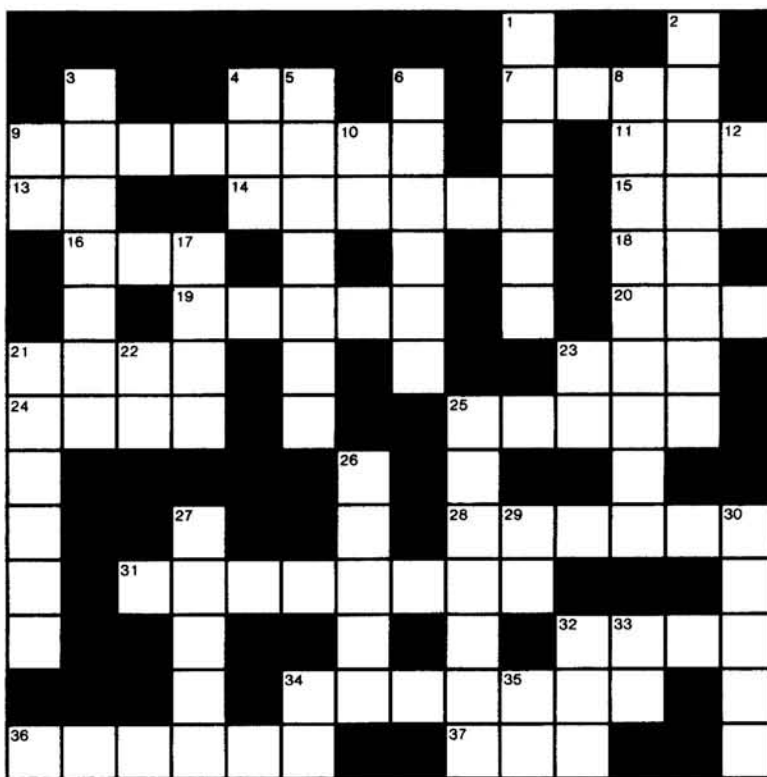
**BIBLE MEMORY**      Matthew 5:17-20

**DOWN**

1. The \_\_\_ Apostles.
2. Nathanael \_\_\_ Jesus was the Messiah when He told him he had been under the fig tree (John 1:50).
3. Jesus preached the Gospel of the \_\_\_ of God.
4. Kind of tree Nathanael was under (John 1:48).
5. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong is God's \_\_\_ today.
6. Mark 1:15 "And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: \_\_\_ ye, and believe the Gospel."
8. Bartholomew
9. \_\_\_, re, mi
10. Consonants
12. Apost - -
17. Consonants
21. River in which Jesus Christ was baptized.
22. Masculine pronoun
23. Vowels
25. John the \_\_\_
26. Matthew 4:10 "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou \_\_\_."
27. What Christ changed into wine.
29. Consonants
30. The chief apostle of Christ.
32. Matthew 3:12 "Whose \_\_\_ is in His Hand . . . ."
33. Elija - -
34. Consonants
35. Abbreviation for "that is."

**ACROSS**

4. Do, re, mi, \_\_\_
7. In Christ's first miracle He changed water into \_\_\_.
9. A learner
11. Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in \_\_\_ the world for a witness unto \_\_\_ nations; and then shall the end come."



13. A preposition
14. Mark 1:14 "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the \_\_\_ of the Kingdom of God.
15. What one does with shoe-laces.
16. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with \_\_\_, and the Word was \_\_\_.
18. Masculine pronoun
19. The spirit being who tempted Jesus Christ.
20. Abbreviation for "avenue."
21. One of the twelve apostles.
23. The number before "two."
24. Exodus 16:16 "Gather of it every man according to his eating, an \_\_\_ for every man . . . ."
25. What Satan told Christ to change the stones into.
28. He told Nathanael about Jesus Christ.
31. City in which Jesus grew up.
32. What Jesus did for forty days and forty nights.
34. Another name for Christ.
36. One of the twelve apostles.
37. The \_\_\_ Commandments.