

Welcome to Sierra!

Is. 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



12/7/08



“Characters of Christmas”

John the Baptist



*"Characters
of Christmas"*

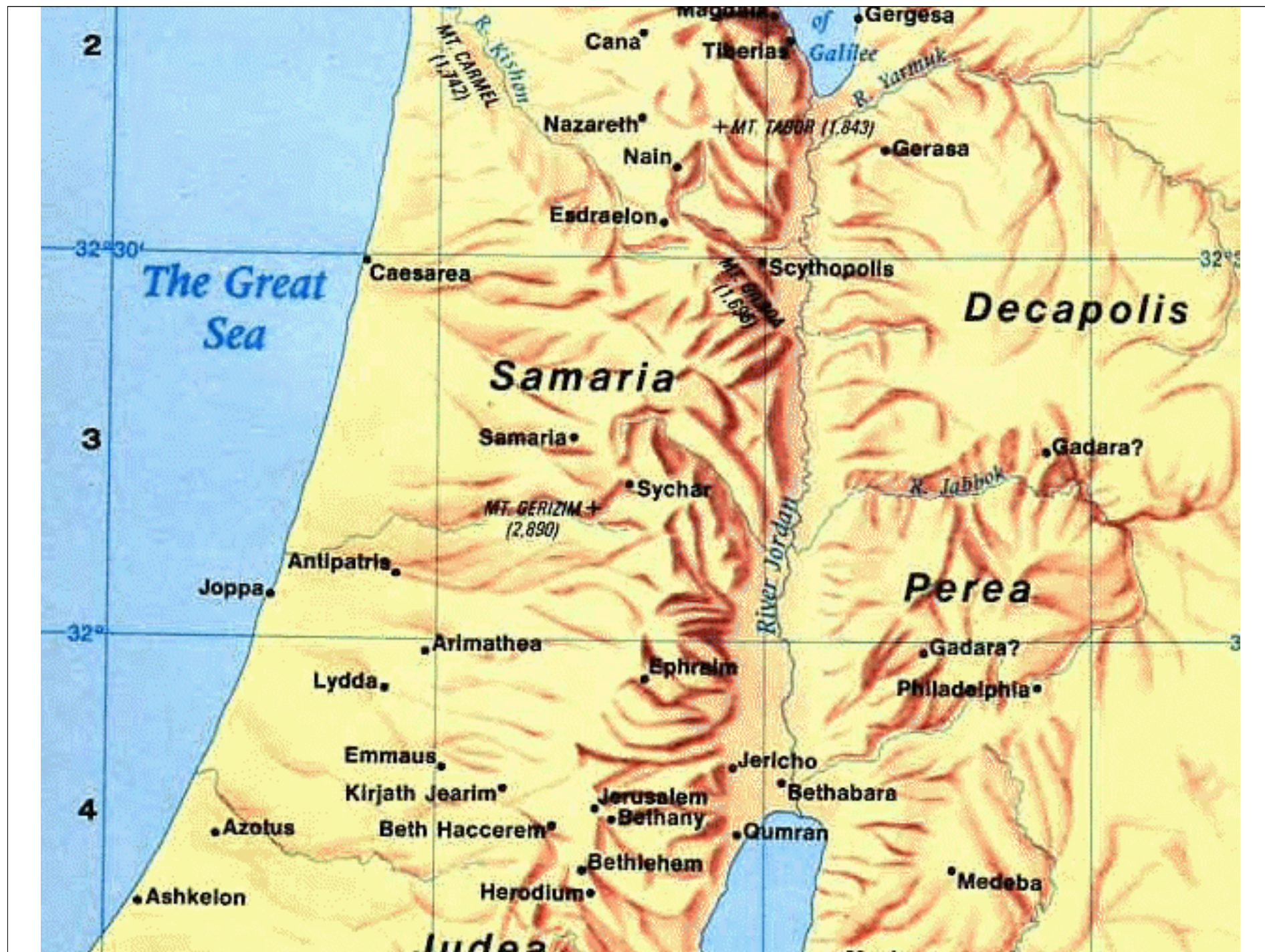


John the Baptist

*"Characters
of Christmas"*



Mark
Chapter 1: 1-8





John the Baptist

*"Characters
of Christmas"*



Background

A. John was a relative of Jesus.

-Luke 1:36

John the Baptist

*"Characters
of Christmas"*



Background

A. John was a relative of Jesus.

-Luke 1:36

B. John's birth also foretold by angel.

-Luke 1:11-13

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Background

A. John was a relative of Jesus.

-Luke 1:36

B. John birth also foretold by angel.

-Luke 1:11-13

C. John is essential to all 4 gospels.

*-Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 1 (**67**); John 1*

John the Baptist

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Mission

Mark 1:2-3 ² It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— ³ "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

John the Baptist

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Mission

Mal. 3:1 *"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.*

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Mission

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Mission

Is. 40:3-4 ³A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

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Mission

Mark 1:2-3 ² *It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—* ³ *"a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

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Mission

John 1:21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "**I am not.**" "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "**No.**"

John the Baptist

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Mission

Matt. 17:12-13 ¹²But I tell you, **Elijah has already come**, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the **disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.**

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Mission

Mark 1:2-3 ² It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— ³ "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"





*JOHN LIVED A LIFE
OF SEPARATION.*

Do you?



John the Baptist

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Mission

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Mission

Mark 1:4 And so John came,
baptizing in the desert region and
preaching a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.

John the Baptist

*"Characters
of Christmas"*



Message

Mark 1:4 And so John came,
baptizing in the desert region and
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Greek: μετάνοια / metanoia

"Repentance has two sides - turning away from sins and turning toward God. To be truly repentant, people must do both."

LIFE
APPLICATION[®]
BIBLE
Commentary

MARK

Life Application Commentary - Mark, (Tyndale 1994) page 9



What does repentance look like?

Luke 3:10-14



What does repentance look like?

Two Tunics... Generosity



What does repentance look like?

Two Tunics... Generosity

Tax Collector... Don't abuse your
authority



What does repentance look like?

Two Tunics... Generosity

Tax Collector... Don't abuse your
authority

Soldier... Honesty / Content



What does repentance look like?



*LIVE IN A WAY THAT REFLECTS
GOD'S PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES*



What does repentance look like?

Better way...



*LIVE IN A WAY THAT REFLECTS
GOD'S PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES*

What does repentance look like?

Better way...



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John the Baptist

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Message

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Great News!

1John 1:9 *If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just and will
forgive us our sins and purify us
from all unrighteousness.*

John the Baptist

*"Characters
of Christmas"*



Message

Mark 1:8 *I baptize you with
water, but he will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit."*

John the Baptist

*"Characters
of Christmas"*



Message

JOHN'S BAPTISM

*EXPRESSION OF
COMMITMENT*

JESUS BAPTISM

*A SPIRIT
EMPOWERED LIFE*

John the Baptist

*"Characters
of Christmas"*



My Response

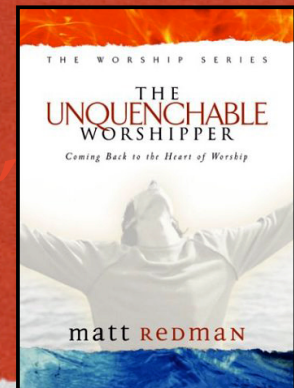
1. Prepare the way...

My Response

1. Prepare the way...

"We talk a lot about Spirit-led worship, but if we truly want to be lead by the Holy Spirit, we need to make sure we're keeping in step with Him in our everyday lives... I need to make sure that I'm making my life an appropriate dwelling place for Him."

Matt Redman, *The Unquenchable Worshipper* (Regal 2001) page, 24

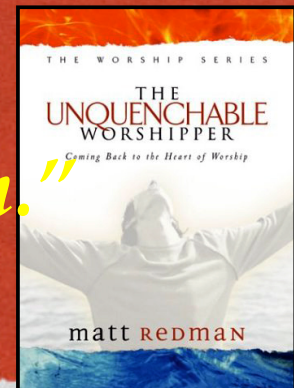


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My Response

1. Prepare the way...
2. Share the message...

John the Baptist

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Mission & Message

2Cor. 5:20 We are therefore
Christ's **ambassadors**, as though
God were making his appeal
through us.

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My Response

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2. Share the message...

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