

**The Pointer and the Point: The Story of John the Baptist
(Matthew 3)
The Biggest Story**



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zr_BiSWvsgs&t=1s

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, light-colored object, possibly a seed or a small animal, against a dark background. The hand is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, with fingers gently cupping the object. The background is dark and out of focus, with some light-colored, possibly fabric, elements visible. The overall mood is intimate and focused.

The Kingdom is at Hand

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Matthew 3

3 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

4 Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Repentance

The wrath of God is coming upon all who do not repent (Psalm 7:12)

Is a proper response to the knowledge of the impending wrath of God against sin (Ezekiel 18:30)

Necessary in order for God to forgive your sins (Acts 3:19)

Produces a “change of course” in the heart away from sin and toward God (Acts 3:19)

It is prompted by God’s kindness toward us (Romans 2:4)

It is given to man by God (Acts 5:31, 11:19; 2 Timothy 2:25)

It is the gateway to knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 2:25)

It leads to life (Acts 11:18)

It is preceded by grief over our sin (2 Corinthians 7:10)

It isn’t just for unbelievers (Job 42:6)

We must repent of dead works (Hebrews 6:1)

It is the heart condition at the center of revival movements (Jonah 4, Ezra 9, John the Baptist, Acts 3)

God’s people must repent *en masse* in order for his covenant promises to be fulfilled and for Christ to return (1 Kings 8:47-48; 2 Chronicles 6:37-38; Acts 3:19)

God commands that the church of the last days repent (Revelation 3:3, 19)

He warns that terrible wrath will come upon all who don’t repent before the return of Christ (Revelation 9:20-21, 16:9, 11)



Summit

HARVEST CHURCH