

Forerunner

Mark 1:2-8

I. A task — never to be repeated (2-3)

a) Being the messenger of Yahweh

Malachi 3:1 — “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

Isaiah 40:3 — A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

b) Crying out in the wilderness

Hosea 2:14-15 — “Therefore, behold, I will allure her (Israel), and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.

And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

II. A ministry — soon to expire (4-6)

a) A baptism of repentance

Acts 19:1-5 — And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. **2** And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” **3** And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” **4** And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” **5** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

b) A staggering popularity

c) A type of Elijah

2 Kings 1:8 — “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.” And he said, “It is **Elijah** the Tishbite.”

III. A message — demanding your attention (7-8)

a) **“A greater One is coming”**

b) **“He will be a greater baptizer”**

I Cor. 12:13 — For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.