



## Portion:

## Title:

### SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 3-4
- Luke 1; John 1
- II Peter 1:16-21

### TIME NEVER FAILS

- The Moment
- The Test
- The Ministry

*“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” There are so many critical prophetic ideas stirring, as we are introduced to the essential ministry of John the Baptist, and as we witness him baptize the Son of God. It’s a moment in time that will change everything. We simply must take pause to appreciate how this event amalgamates so many prophetic concepts. If you try to integrate them all at once in your brain, it will likely make your head spin. But let’s try it anyway.*

*It’s an inflection point in history, let’s call it a prophetic moment, when time folds in on itself and we are permitted to see the past, present and future together in an instant. John doesn’t have a clue, although you would think he would; he’s well-aware of the prophecies about his life. He came in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way, and to turn hearts. But, he doesn’t really*

*grasp it. He takes one look at the Christ, the lamb of God, the savior of the world, and immediately he feels to shrink away. "I can't baptize You; I'm not even worthy to touch Your sweaty feet and Your filthy sandals."*

*Time stands still in that moment; Y'shua pauses to correct John, and you. You? Yes, because you would have made the same error. He must reset the prophetic clock, because time never fails, like love never fails. To John, and to all who will ever read these words: "Permit it to be so NOW, for thus IT is fitting for US to fulfill all righteousness." Permit "it," permit it "now," and permit it for "us," because time never fails and because if you don't, all the prophecies, past, present, and future crumble into dust. What is "it"? It is time to baptize the Christ, so the Father might affirm from heaven, "This is My Son...He is the One." And why "now"? Because it is time to punctuate Y'shua's ministry. It's time to congeal all the prophecies concerning the coming kingdom into one concise moment. And why "us"? Because John is not the only one who comes in the spirit and power of Elijah.*

*Y'shua opens John's eyes, and ours; John, you are here to prepare the way in the wilderness, and I am about to go there for My preparation test. You started it when you said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And I am going to finish it the same way. But, this time the whole world will know what that Kingdom is,*

*because I will be staring at them right in the face! To John, and to everyone in the future who reads these words: "It is time, and time never fails."*

### **PROPHETIC SEED:**

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan **to be baptized by him**. And **John tried to prevent Him**, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "**Permit it to be so now**, for thus it is **fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness**." Then he allowed Him." Matthew 3:13-15 NKJV

### **PROPHETIC FRUIT:**

"...we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased**." And **we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him** on the holy mountain. And so we have **the prophetic word confirmed**, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; **knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man**, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." II Peter 1:16-21 NKJV

# Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

## Introduction

Last week in our introduction we reviewed the layout of the entire Gospel of Matthew and then we explored the first two chapters in a message called [Best Supporting Actor](#). Of, course we saw the virgin conception and birth of Christ, and watched all the expected players in their roles: the Magi and their gifts, Herod and his massacre of innocent children, and all the prophetic moments of the holy family, as they moved from Bethlehem to Egypt and then onto Nazareth, all in the fulfillment of prophecy. We even explored some of the fascinating nuances of Matthew's genealogy of Christ. But those topics were just appetizers.

Surprisingly, for our main course, we chose to highlight the life of Joseph, Mary's husband, Y'shua's earthly father. No one ever seems to emphasize the magnitude of his contributions; he is designated so little space in the words of Scripture. Yet, had he not been able to hear God's voice, and if he was not willing to obey God's instructions, Y'shua's life might have been extinguished three different times before he reached two years old, the first before He was ever born. Just contemplate what impact that would have had on human history. To me, it was deserving of a message worthy of his contribution to mankind!

This week we will introduce one of the most prophetically important characters in the Bible, John the Baptizer, a person and ministry we will revisit often throughout our study of Matthew. We see John as the necessary forerunner of Christ and if we draw from information found in the other Gospels, the magnitude of his ministry will explode in your mind. He comes in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare a way for the Lord in the wilderness. A forerunner was needed then and will be needed again before Christ comes a second time.

John baptizes Y'shua to fulfill all righteousness and off into the wilderness Christ goes to face forty days of satanic temptation, as necessary preparation. Y'shua emerges from the wilderness and launches into His public ministry with the same message John used to introduce Him; *"Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"* Y'shua then selects the first four disciples of His eventual twelve. Let the healing begin!

## **Matthew 3**

### **Preparing the Way**

1. John the Baptizer had emerged from his wilderness ministry preaching... *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*
2. In Matthew 3:3, John is identified as the first of the two-phase fulfillment of the Isaiah 40:3 prophecy regarding Elijah: *"The*

*voice of one crying in the wilderness...*" In our teaching to follow, please notice a significant prophetic distinction in different translations of Isaiah, a shift in punctuation that completely changes the meaning.

3. Many in the region around the Jordan went out to John and were baptized by him, confessing their sins.
4. What follows from John are certainly teachings that Y'shua will advance in His ministry.
  - (a) He calls the Pharisees and Sadducees "a Brood of vipers!"
  - (b) He warns them that they cannot flee from the coming wrath.
  - (c) He urges them that they too must repent (not well-received!)
  - (d) He warns them that they cannot trust that their heritage as decedents of Abraham is sufficient.
  - (e) John then certainly insults them further by minimizing the importance of their bloodline, saying God could make any rock on the ground a child of Abraham, if He chose.
  - (f) This exposes their vulnerability because, without repentance, their destiny is no better than an inanimate stone!
  - (g) He offers them yet another image of futility; trees that don't bear fruit are cut down at their roots.
  - (h) Pay attention, this applies to you Pharisees and Sadducees as well! If you don't bear fruit, you too will perish.

- (i) Can you imagine the scene, John, totally unsophisticated, dressed like a wild-man, rebuking the prim and proper religious class?
5. While John is doing baptisms with water for repentance, he speaks of Another who is coming after him.
    - (a) John will point right at Y'shua in a moment.
    - (b) Y'shua will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.
    - (c) Y'shua is so much greater than John that he says he's not even worthy to carry His sandals.
    - (d) Y'shua will separate the fruit from the hypocrites and burn all that is not of Him with unquenchable fire.

### **The Baptism of Y'shua**

6. Y'shua comes to John to be baptized and John tries to swap places, as he feels unworthy. He'd rather Y'shua baptize him.
7. But, Y'shua requires it because it is the right order of things (to fulfill all righteousness).
8. In other words—Christ knows all the prophecies that are connected with and hinge on this prophetic moment!
9. John (Elijah) must come first (to restore all things). Why? Y'shua knows all that is involved in the order of that restoration!
10. So, John allows Him to be baptized, and immediately the heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him, and the affirming voice of the Father comes from heaven

—linking, in perfect time, the present to the near future, and the past to the distant future. *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* Time Never Fails!

- (a) It is not a coincidence that the Father connects Y’shua’s baptism (the present moment in Matthew 3) with the transfiguration and Elijah (the near future in Matthew 17:1-13) with the same affirmation.
- (b) Nor is it a coincidence that the Father connects this moment with Moses and Elijah, via the same affirmation at the transfiguration with the past in Malachi 4:4-6, which then connect to the distant future in Romans 8:18-25.
- (c) Even the narrative about the birth of John the Baptist in Luke’s Gospel is linked to Matthew 17 (the Transfiguration), Malachi 4 (the final prophecy of the Old Testament), and Isaiah 40 (the preparation in the wilderness to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom).
- (d) Peter, who was there at the Transfiguration, affirms the entire prophetic pattern as indicated by the Holy Spirit in II Peter 1:16-21.



## **Matthew 4**

### **The Way is in Wilderness**

11. Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for the final preparation of His ministry. The wilderness is a place of testing and preparation—(Deuteronomy 8:1-3).
12. After forty days and forty nights of fasting, the devil tempts Him to turn stones into bread, and we get the prophetic affirmation of why Y'shua was in the wilderness!
13. Y'shua quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
14. Then the devil takes him to the top of the temple in Jerusalem, and tells Him to toss himself off because, as the Son of God, angels will catch him according to the Scriptures. The devil makes a direct reference to Psalms 91:11-12: "For He shall give His angels charge over you..."
15. Jesus again tells him it is written (quoting Deuteronomy 6:16), "You shall not tempt the Lord your God."
16. Then, the devil takes Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with

you, Satan! For it is written (in Deuteronomy 6:13), “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.”

17. Then the devil left Him, and angels came and ministered to Him. Resist the devil and he will flee (like James affirms in James 4:7.)

### **The Ministry Begins**

18. Y’shua exits the wilderness and discovers John had been arrested and placed in prison.

19. He goes to Capernaum first (to fulfill Isaiah 9:1-2) and begins His ministry (at the perfect time) by picking up, where John left off, with the same words:

(a) From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*”

(b) John was in prison—his ministry was passing away—He said “He [Y’shua] must increase, but I [John] must decrease.”  
(John 3:30)

(c) Now was the time for Y’shua to and advance the Gospel of the Kingdom. Time never fails!

### **The First Disciples**

20. Y’shua then calls four of His twelve disciples.

(a) To Peter and Andrew He says, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately leave their nets and follow!

- (b) He calls James and John (the sons of Zebedee). Immediately they leave their boat and their father, and follow Him.

## **Healing Many**

- 21. Y'shua then goes around Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and disease among the people. (Signs and wonders will be a hallmark of preaching the Kingdom!)
- 22. Prophetic note: the Gospel of the Kingdom is the bulk of the message in the New Testament, not the Gospel of Salvation.
  - (a) The Gospel of Salvation: Christ saves you; it cost you nothing.
  - (b) The Gospel of the Kingdom: You become like Christ: it cost you everything!
- 23. Y'shua's fame spread and great multitudes followed Him!

## THE MOMENT

### **1. Do you know the time?**

#### **A. Preparing the Way (Parallel Gospel Mark 1:1-11)**

- (1) The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand!
  - (a) John's Calling Card (a bold prophetic declaration)
    - 1. "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"**" Matthew 3:1-2  
NKJV

- a) John the Baptist had emerged from his wilderness ministry preaching... *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”*
  - b) The Jews were waiting on a Messiah who would defeat their oppressors and restore power to Israel.
  - c) Even after the resurrection they were still believing that Y’shua was there to restore an earthly kingdom.
    - 1) “And being assembled together with them, **He [Y’shua]** commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for **John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, **“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”**” Acts 1:4-6 NKJV
  - d) But, of what Kingdom was John speaking?
2. “Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, **“The kingdom of God does not come with observation;** nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See

there!' For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you.**' " Luke 17:20-21 NKJV

- a) The Kingdom is within you! When John the Baptist came preaching, his message was to *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"* (see Matthew 3:1-2) Visualize this: He was pointing outward, at Christ, and telling us that we must return (home) to Yahweh (that is actually what it means to repent). And this is what it looks—the fullness of God manifesting in man, (the kingdom of God within you), look's like Christ!
- b) When Christ emerged from the wilderness, He too began to preach, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (Matthew 4:17) This time, He was pointing inward, at Himself. He is the epitome of the kingdom of God manifesting within man—the image of God—the home to which we must return.

(b) Where does the preparation take place?

1. "For this is he [*John the Baptist*] who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: **"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'** " " Matthew 3:3 NKJV

a) In Matthew 3:3, John is identified as the first of the two-phase fulfillment of the Isaiah 40:3 prophecy regarding Elijah. I want you to notice a significant prophetic distinction in different translations of Isaiah:

1) [Sample #1] *"The voice of one **crying in the wilderness**: **Prepare** the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God."*

Isaiah 40:3 NKJV

2) [Sample #2] *"A voice of one **calling**: **In** the **wilderness prepare** the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

Isaiah 40:3 NIV

b) Which is prophetically correct? Simply notice the position of the punctuation in the boxes above. It completely changes the meaning.

1) Is John calling out from the wilderness saying it's time for preparation (Sample #1)?

2) Or, is John calling out saying that the preparation takes place in the wilderness (Sample #2)?

3) Matthew 4:1-4 makes clear that Y'shua is called into the wilderness to be tested and prepared.

- 4) The wilderness is the place of preparation, which is exactly what the Torah says in Deuteronomy 8:2 “...*the Lord your God **led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.***”
- 5) The people left Egypt to be tested and prepared in the wilderness.

(c) John was just the forerunner!

1. **“I indeed baptize you with water unto 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.** His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”” Matthew 3:11-12  
NKJV

a) While John is doing baptisms with water for repentance, he speaks of Another who is coming after him.

- 1) John will point right at Y’shua in a moment.

- 2) Y'shua will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- 3) Y'shua is so much greater than John that he says he's not even worthy to carry His sandals.
- 4) Y'shua will separate the fruit from the hypocrites and burn all that is not of Him with unquenchable fire.

**B. Who is John (the baptizer)?**

(1) Why does he represent a pivotal moment in history? (Let's fast forward for a moment to understand.)

(a) All the prophets and the law prophesied until John—because he represents Elijah!

1. “Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities. And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples {3} and said to Him, **“Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”** Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” As they



departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. **But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.** {10} **For this is he of whom it is written [Malachi 3:1]: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’** {12} “Assuredly, I say to you, **among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist;** but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. {13} And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force** [See [Spiritual Violence](#)]. {14} For all **the prophets and the law prophesied until John.** {15} **And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”** Matthew 11:1-15 NKJV (Parallel Luke 7:18-28)

- a) John continued, right up to the end of his life, to question his role.

- b) “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” (Jesus assured him with evidence that He is the One!)
- c) Y’shua then assures everyone by referencing Malachi’s prophecy that John is much more than a prophet. He is THE messenger who prepares the way for the MESSENGER. *“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.”*
- 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, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,”** Says the Lord of hosts.” Malachi 3:1 NKJV
- d) No man had ever been greater than John, but because his life represents the inflection point in history—all who are part of God’s kingdom after him (the kingdom was at hand) are greater.
- e) And it will take Spiritual Violence to bring the kingdom. (An important idea to comprehend, and worthy of your time to study.)

- f) \*Everything about the law and all the prophecies were pointing toward this one moment in history. *“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.”* (Mat. 11:14)
- g) And...you may not be willing to hear it, but John is [the shadow of] Elijah who is to come.
- h) He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Hear what? John is not Elijah; instead, he represents Elijah! (Like we see was prophesied at his birth).
  - 1) “He [John] will also go before Him **in the spirit and power of Elijah...**” Luke 1:17 NKJV
- i) **Prophetic Moments:** King David was also a central figure in a pivotal moment that changed the course of history when he prophetically declared to build a Temple for Yahweh (see II Samuel 7). Study [The Tale of Two Prepositions](#) for details on David’s moment.

## (2) John’s Destiny from Birth

### (a) Prophecy before John’s Birth

1. “But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and

many will rejoice at his birth. For **he will be great in the sight of the Lord**, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, '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 1:13-17 NKJV

- a) Again this is a powerful, undeniable connection between John and Elijah, and even MORE CRITICAL, describes the ultimate ministry of Elijah at the end of the age—
  - b) The angel speaks to Zacharias, John's father, and refers him to the last words of the Old Testament.
  - c) These words are vitally important for every Christian who ever lived. They are an integral part of the interwoven tapestry of prophecy, and are one of the pillars of this message, and why it is titled: Time Never Fails
- 1) ""**Remember the Law of Moses**, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,

With the statutes and judgments. **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet** Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And **he will turn The hearts** of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a **curse.**”” Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

- d) First, the connection of Moses and Elijah here is why both Moses and Elijah appeared to Y’shua, Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. (More on this soon.)
- e) Then, we see the connection of Elijah’s ministry, to turn hearts, with the prophecy over John’s life.
- f) **Note:** Y’shua makes the ultimate connection between John (the baptizer) and Elijah, after Peter, James and John come down the mount of transfiguration...
  - 1) “Jesus answered and said to them, “**Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that **Elijah has come already** [we know from prophecy He means “the spirit of Elijah], and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of

*Man is also about to suffer at their hands.”*

*[Peter looks back at this suffering in Acts 3:18]*

***Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist [who came in “the spirit and power of Elijah— Luke 1:17].”***

Matthew 17:11-13 NKJV

- g) And, when we look at the first three verses of Malachi 4...we see when the restoration will happen.
- 1) *““For behold, **the day is coming, Burning like an oven**, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” Says the Lord of hosts, “That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name **The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings**; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. **You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet** On the day that I do this,” Says the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 4:1-3)*
- h) This is talking about the very end of the age, the second coming of Christ, not the first. And that is

why John, who came to prepare the way for Christ, comes in the “spirit of Elijah” and not Elijah.

- i) Elijah will come again to prepared a way for Christ’s second coming. This also explains all of John’s confusion when he is questioned about about who he is in John 1:21. “Are you Elijah?” (More on this soon.)
- j) In the end, in Malachi 4:6, we learn all that happens if you won’t obey this Prophet (Elijah) and his message of restoration (remember the Law of Moses)— the curse over creation remains! (More on this soon...but let’s get back to John birth.)

(b) Prophecy at John’s Circumcision

1. “So it was, **on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise** the child; and they **would have called him by the name** of his father, Zacharias. His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.” But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, **“His name is John.”** So they all marveled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue

loosed, and he spoke, praising God. Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, **“What kind of child will this be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him.**” Luke 1:59-66 NKJV

a) All the circumstances around John’s birth were supernatural, so on his circumcision and naming day (the eighth day), the people were ripe to recognize the moment. *“What kind of child will this be?”*

(c) Dad’s prophecy

1. “Now his father **Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit**, and **prophesied**, saying: “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, And has **raised up a horn of salvation** for us In the house of His servant David, As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, The oath which He



swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we,  
Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might  
serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness  
before Him all the days of our life. **“And you, child,  
will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you  
will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His  
ways, To give knowledge of salvation to His people  
By the remission of their sins,** Through the tender  
mercy of our God, With which the **Dayspring**  
**[sunrise, new era]** from on high has visited us; To  
give light to those who sit in darkness and the  
shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of  
peace.” So the child grew and became strong in  
spirit, **and was in the deserts till the day of his  
manifestation to Israel.**” Luke 1:67-80 NKJV

- a) Now, on that day, Zacharias (John’s father) was  
filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied...
  - 1) The Messiah is coming (soon)!
  - 2) John will be **the prophet** of the Highest (one of  
the questions John will be asked later on in John  
1:21—“Are you the prophet?”—one that even  
has John confused—(more coming soon!)

- 3) He will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways...(now John is connected to Isaiah 40:3...*“A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness **prepare the way for the Lord**; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”*)
- 4) The dayspring (sunrise, new era) is yet another connection to Malachi 4:2 (*“The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings...”*)

(3) John (the Gospel writer) on John (the baptizer’s) baptism of Christ

(a) John (the baptizer) came to bear witness...

1. “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **This man came for a witness**, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, **but was sent to bear witness of that Light**. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.” John 1:6-9 NKJV

a) John (the baptizer) came to introduce Y’shua as the Messiah.

2. “And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **John**

**bore witness** of Him and cried out, saying, **“This was He** of whom I said, **‘He who comes after me is preferred before me,** for He was before me.’ ”” John 1:14-15 NKJV

- a) John (the baptizer) proclaims that Y’shua is the preferred one!
- (b) The voice in the wilderness—John is a bit unsure!
  1. “Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, **“Who are you?”** He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, **“I am not the Christ.”** And they asked him, **“What then? Are you Elijah?”** He said, **“I am not.”** **“Are you the Prophet?”** [refer to the prophecy about “the prophet” over John’s life in Luke 1:76; Malachi 3:1 & 4:5; and now see \*Acts 3:22-23 and later Deuteronomy 18:18-19] And he answered, **“No.”** Then they said to him, **“Who are you,** that we may give an answer to those who sent us? **What do you say about yourself?”** He said: **“I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord,” ’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”** Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, **“Why then do you baptize if**

**you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”**

John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. **It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.**”” John 1:19-27 NKJV

- a) Even with all the prophecies and all that he does know, John (the baptizer) is still wildly confused about himself. Certainly this is why he asked Y’shua, “*Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?*” (Matthew 11:3)
- 1) “I am not the Christ.”
  - 2) “Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “
  - 3) “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”
  - 4) “Who are you? What do you say about yourself?” He said: “I am (Isaiah 40:3) ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord...” (which is the Elijah ministry!)
- b) Why all the confusion? Because he is not THE—  
“Are you THE Elijah?” “Are you THE Prophet?” No, He is the Spirit of Elijah (Luke 1:17).

2. Now when we look ahead, post resurrection, we see all of this prophecy come into focus!

- a) [Peter speaking— who was one of the witness on the Mount of Transfiguration] “But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. [Peter was shoed this after the transfiguration: “...Elijah has come, they did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer.” Mat. 17:12] **Repent therefore and be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**, and that He may send **Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things** [“Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.” (Mat. 17:11) Y’shua stays where He is until the **restoration is complete!**], which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. {22} For Moses truly said to the fathers, **The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet** [again refer to the prophecy over John’s

life in Luke 1:76 about “the prophet”; Malachi 3:1 & 4:5] **like me** from your brethren. [Like who? Like Moses! And that is why Moses and Elijah appear together in Malachi 4:4-5 & at the transfiguration in Matthew 17:3—also see \*Deuteronomy 18:18-19) Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And **it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed** from among the people [Malachi 4:6—lest He strike the earth with a curse—the curse of the fall of creation will remain over the earth!].”

Acts 3:18-23 NKJV

- b) \*The Prophet like Moses: “**I will raise up for them a Prophet like you** from among their brethren, **and will put My words in His mouth**, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that **whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.**”

Deuteronomy 18:18-19 NKJV

- 1) Require it of Him? (Deuteronomy 18:19)
- 2) “*Lest I come and **strike the earth with a curse.***”  
(Malachi 4:6)

3) “every soul who will not hear that Prophet **shall be utterly destroyed** from among the people.”

(Acts 3:23)

4) The curse remains: “For we know that **the whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together until now.” Romans 8:22 NKJV

5) The curse will only be lifted through the ministry of the restoration prophet, the prophet like Moses, which we know is Elijah (Acts 3:21 & Matthew 17:11): “For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**” Romans 8:19-21 NKJV

3. And to put an exclamation point on the whole thing...

a) “Yes, and **all the prophets**, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, **have also foretold these days.**” Acts 3:24 NKJV

b) It becomes abundantly clear that Peter is talking about John/Elijah, because he reiterates exactly what Y'shua said about John!

1) *“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. **For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.**”* Matthew 11:12-14 NKJV

(c) And then—THE PROPHETIC MOMENT—The Lamb of God—and His Baptism

1. “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, **Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!** This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ **I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.**” And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. **I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water** said to me, **‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with**



**the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.'"** John 1:29-34 NKJV

- a) Let's study a few of these key prophetic pieces that John gives us before we get to our passage in Matthew about Y'shua's baptism. John tells us WHY the baptism is THE KEY PROPHETIC MOMENT, but he does not include the KEY PROPHETIC STATEMENT that will amalgamate all the prophecies (*"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*)—that is left for the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke).
- 1) John identifies Christ as the [Passover] Lamb of God who takes away sin!
  - 2) John recognizes that the ultimate reason he was called to do baptisms was to reveal the Christ.
  - 3) John admits he did not know until that very moment who the Christ was (even though he knew Y'shua his whole life), but that he was told (by God) that when he sees "the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, that would be the preferred one, the Son of God, who has come to baptize with the Holy Spirit.

### **C. It—Now—Us (The Baptism of Christ)**

(1) Why is the moment of Christ's baptism so critical to us, as Christians, EVEN NOW?

(a) John tried to avoid doing it!

1. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. **And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"** But Jesus answered and said to him, **"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."** Then he allowed Him. **When He had been baptized,** Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and **He saw the Spirit** of God descending like a dove and **alighting upon Him [the sign for John!]**. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**" Matthew 3:13-17 NKJV [*Parallel Gospels Luke 3:22 & Mark 1:11—but not John's Gospel*]

a) Y'shua comes to John to be baptized and John tries to swap places, as he feels unworthy. He'd rather Y'shua baptize him.

b) But, Y'shua requires it because it is the right order of things (to fulfill all righteousness).

- c) In other words—Christ knows the prophecies that are connected with this prophetic moment!
- d) John (Elijah) must come first (to restore all things). Why? Y’shua knows all that is involved in the order of that restoration!
- e) So, John allows Him to be baptized, and immediately the heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him (that was the sign God told John to look for in John 1:33), and the affirming voice of the Father comes from heaven—linking, in perfect time, the present to the near future, and the past to the distant future. *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*  
Time Never Fails!

(2) The Transfiguration (The Key Prophetic Glue)

- (a) It is not a coincidence that the Father connects Y’shua’s baptism (the present moment in Matthew 3) with the transfiguration and Elijah (the near future in Matthew 17:1-13) with the same affirmation. *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”*
  1. “And behold, **Moses and Elijah** appeared to them, talking with Him.” Matthew 17:3 NKJV

2. “While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”**” Matthew 17:5 NKJV [*Parallel Gospels Luke 9:35 & Mark 9:7—but not John’s Gospel*]
3. “And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that **Elijah must come first?**” Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, **Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” **Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.**” Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV

(b) Is it congealing in your mind?

- 1) Time Never Fails! It is all folding in on itself—past, present and future—in this one prophetic moment!
- 2) *“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”*
- 3) Moses and Elijah are connected to Y’shua’s baptism.

- 4) Elijah and the Restoration of all things (Acts 3:21) are connected to Y'shua's baptism.
- 5) The Father instructed John to perform the baptism (John 1:31-33) because he (John) came in the Spirit and Power of Elijah (Luke 1:17).
6. Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!
7. And just like His mother's voice would proclaim at His first public Miracle—*"Whatever He says to you, do it."*
  - a) "And when they ran out of wine, **the mother of Jesus said to Him**, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, **what does your concern have to do with Me?** My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "**Whatever He says to you, do it.**"" John 2:3-5 NKJV
8. Sound familiar? This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him and do what He says!

(3) No coincidences!

(a) The Father connects all the pieces together!

1. "**Remember the Law of Moses**, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the

statutes and judgments. **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. **And he will turn** the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

2. "Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, **Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.**" Matthew 17:11 NKJV
3. Jesus, "whom heaven must receive **until the times of restoration of all things,** which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:21 NKJV
4. "And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet **shall be utterly destroyed** from among the people.'" Acts 3:23 NKJV
5. ""Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand Double for all her sins." **The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare 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 brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; **The glory of the Lord shall be revealed**, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.””

Isaiah 40:1-5 NKJV

6. “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy **to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us**. For **the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God**. For **the creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; **because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God**. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” Romans 8:18-22 NKJV

a) Are you ready? Tap into your Prophetic Brain!

- 1) The Transfiguration connects Y’shua’s baptism with Moses and Elijah via the same affirmation... *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

- 2) The Transfiguration then connects to the past in Malachi 4:4-6 with Moses and Elijah.
- 3) And John, as the Prophet who prepares the way (Matthew 3:3 & Isaiah 40:3), connects himself, as Elijah, the prophet who restores all things (Acts 3:21 & Matthew 17:11) to Isaiah 40.
- 4) Isaiah 40:5 connects us to what that restoration looks like in the distant future when the glory of God is revealed, which is later described in Romans 8:18-22.
- 5) Romans 8:18-22 connects to what the restoration looks like and when it will occur.
- 6) And it also connects us right back to what happens if we do not have the restoration—the curse over creation remains (Malachi 4:6; Acts 3:23; and Deuteronomy 18:19).

(4) Back to John's birth narrative...

(a) Connection to Matthew 17 & Malachi 4:

1. "And **he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.** He will also go before Him in the **spirit and power of Elijah** [Mat. 17:11-13], '**to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,**' [Malachi 4:6] and the disobedient to the



wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”” Luke 1:16-17 NKJV

2. ““And you, child, **will be called the prophet** of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord **to prepare His ways**, [Isaiah 40:3]” Luke 1:76 NKJV

- a) John’s birth is linked to the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:11-13, via Elijah.
- b) John’s birth is linked to Malachi 4:6 (turning hearts—the final prophecy of the Old Testament)
- c) John’s birth is linked to Isaiah 40:3 (he goes before Christ to prepare a way in the wilderness to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom—glory being revealed.)
- d) John’s birth is connected to The Prophet (Acts 3: 22, 24 & Matthew 11:12-14)

(5) And then there is Peter... He was there at the Transfiguration!

(a) Peter was an eyewitness!

- 1. “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were eyewitnesses** of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory **when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I**

**am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.** And so we have **the prophetic word confirmed**, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, **but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”** II Peter 1:16-21 NKJV

- a) He saw Moses and Elijah
- b) He heard the voice! *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*
- c) He recognized that this IS the prophetic word confirmed! This links all the pieces together.
- d) And they are to be described and disseminated by *“holy men of God speak as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”*
- e) Who is that? That was them and that is us! **“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”** (Matthew 3:15)
  - 1) “Permit “it,” permit it “now,” and permit it for “us,” because time never fails and because if

you don't, all the prophecies, past, present, and future crumble into dust.

**D. Time Never Fails because Love Never Fails, and**

(1) His Word never fails...

(a) Love never fails...

1. **“Love never fails.** But whether there are **prophecies, they will fail**; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. **For we know in part and we prophesy in part.** But **when that which is perfect** *[Greek root telos]* **has come**, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide **faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**” I Corinthians 13:8-13 NKJV

a) God is love and love never fails!

1) “He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. **God is love,** and he

who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." I John 4:8, 16 NKJV

- b) We only know **in part** until what is **perfect** has come! **But what does perfect mean?** \*\*\*Are we waiting for Christ to come back or are we waiting for Christians to become like Christ?\*\*\*
- c) We can gather hints by looking at the same word "perfect" [*Greek root telos*] throughout the Scriptures! **Telos:** having reached its end, complete, perfect, complete in all its parts, full grown, of full age, mature, specially of the *completeness of Christian character*. I think that last definition fits each scripture perfectly!
  - 1) "For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of **full age** [*root telos—completeness of Christian character*], that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Hebrews 5:13-14 NKJV
  - 2) "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to **perfection** [*root telos—completeness of*

*Christian character*], not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,” Hebrews 6:1 NKJV

- 3) “Therefore you shall be **perfect** [*root telos—completeness of Christian character*], just as your Father in heaven is **perfect** [*root telos*].”  
Matthew 5:48 NKJV
- 4) “For Christ is the **end** [*telos—completeness of Christian character*] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” Romans 10:4 NKJV
- 5) “whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the **end** [*telos—completeness of Christian character*] of your faith—the salvation of your souls.” I Peter 1:8-9 NKJV
- 6) “Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the **end** [*telos—completeness of Christian character*] intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.” James 5:11 NKJV

(b) How can you even grasp the idea of [telos—  
completeness of Christian character]?

1. **“Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.** Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; **Let him return to the Lord,** And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. **“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,** Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are **My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.** “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,” Isaiah 55:6-10 NKJV

a) Don't miss the moment!

b) Seek Yahweh; repent; return home to Yahweh (See: [Best Supporting Actor](#))

c) But aren't His thoughts too high for us to grasp?  
This brings us right back to Isaiah 40!

1) **“Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord,** Or as His counselor has taught Him? **With whom did**

**He take counsel, and who instructed Him,** And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?" Isaiah 40:13-14 NKJV

d) And Paul also asked the same question...

1) "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! **"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?"**" Romans 11:33-34 NKJV

e) But, then he gives us the answer? Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who can grasp the idea of [telos—completeness of Christian character]? **WE CAN!**

a) "For **"who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**" I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV

(c) And if God said so, it is so!

1. "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; **It shall not return to Me void,** But **it shall accomplish what I please,** And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11 NKJV

- a) His Word will accomplish what He said it will!
- b) *“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”* (Matthew 3:15)
- c) And it was so! Time Never Fails! Y’shua was Baptized, by John, so all of those prophecies would fold in on themselves in a prophetic moment in time...*to fulfill all righteousness and because His word shall not return void!*

(2) Signs of the Times—Can you tell what time it is?

- (a) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed: *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (II Peter 1:17, 19)

1. “He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! **You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.** A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.” Matthew 16:2-4 NKJV



- a) You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times, or can you?
- (b) It's time...to fulfill all righteousness!
  - 1. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"  
Matthew 3:2 NKJV
  - 2. "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Matthew 3:15 NKJV
  - 3. "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 NKJV
  - 4. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""  
Matthew 4:17 NKJV
    - a) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed:  
*"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (II Peter 1:17, 19)
  - 5. These are the prophetic connections that would not have happened had Y'shua not been baptized by John!

## THE TEST

### 2. Do you know the Word?

#### A. Provision & Obedience (If you are the son of God...?)

##### (1) Test #1

(a) Faith, trust, seek first...

1. “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward **He was hungry**. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, **“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”** But He answered and said, **“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”**” Matthew 4:1-4 NKJV

- a) Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for the final preparation of His ministry. The wilderness is a place of testing and preparation—(See Deuteronomy 8:1-3).
- b) After forty days and forty nights of fasting, the devil tempts Him to turn stones into bread, and we get the prophetic affirmation of why Y’shua was in the wilderness—to be tested—to be made ready!
- c) Y’shua quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 *“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*
  - 1) *““Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you*

may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers.

**And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you,** to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know **that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.**" Deuteronomy 8:1-3 NKJV

## **B. Manipulation & Control (If you are the son of God...?)**

(1) Test #2

(a) Transgressing physical law (gravity)

1. "Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, **"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.** For it is written: **'He shall give His angels charge over you,'** and, **'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'** " Jesus said to

him, "It is written again, '**You shall not tempt the Lord your God.**' "" Matthew 4:5-7 NKJV

- a) Then the devil takes him to the top of the temple in Jerusalem, and tells Him to toss himself off because, as the Son of God, angels will catch him according to the Scriptures. The devils makes a direct reference to Psalms 91:11-12:
  - 1) "**For He shall give His angels charge over you,** To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone." Psalms 91:11-12 NKJV
- b) Jesus again tells the devil it is written (quoting Deuteronomy 6:16), "**You shall not tempt the Lord your God.**"
  - 1) ""**You shall not tempt the Lord your God** as you tempted Him in Massah." Deuteronomy 6:16 NKJV
- c) What would have Y'shua been tempting the Father to do? To break his own laws of nature.

### **C. Power & Position (If you will worship me...?)**

(1) Test #3

- (a) The devil holds the title deed to the earth, so he makes an offer...

1. “Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and **showed Him all the kingdoms of the world** and their glory. And he said to Him, “**All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.**” Then Jesus said to him, “**Away with you, Satan!** For it is written, ‘**You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.**’ ””

Matthew 4:8-10 NKJV

- a) Then, the devil showed Y’shua all the kingdoms of the world and offered to give them to Him, if He would fall down and worship him.
- b) Y’shua tells Satan to get lost, and then he refers Satan to Deuteronomy 6:13; “**You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only** you shall serve.
  - 1) “**You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him,** and shall take oaths in His name.”

Deuteronomy 6:13 NKJV (See: [Above All](#) about the critical nature of oaths)

2. “**Then the devil left Him,** and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.” Matthew 4:11 NKJV

- a) Resist the devil and he will flee!
  - 1) “Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**” James 4:7 NKJV

## THE MINISTRY

### 3. Do you know the mission?

#### A. Let the Ministry Begin!

(1) Begin where you are told to begin...

(a) Out of the wilderness

1. "Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, **He came and dwelt in Capernaum**, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: **The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light**, **And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.**" Matthew 4:12-16 NKJV

a) Y'shua exits the wilderness and discovers John had been arrested and placed in prison.

b) He goes to Capernaum first (to fulfill Isaiah 9:1-2) and begins His ministry (at the perfect time) by picking up, with the same words, where John left off!

- c) And this is exactly for what John the Baptizer was preparing the way! ***“To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”*** Luke 1:79 NKJV
- (2) The end of one ministry and the beginning of another...
- (a) John started it...no prophet more important than him had ever lived! And Y’shua picked up where he left off...
    - 1. “From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”**”  
Matthew 4:17 NKJV
    - a) John was in prison—his ministry was passing away—He knew “He [Y’shua] must increase, but I [John] must decrease.” (John 3:30)
    - b) Now was the time for Y’shua to and advance the Gospel of the kingdom. Time never fails!
- (3) Disciples
- (a) Y’shua then calls four of His twelve disciples
    - 1. Matthew 4:18-22
      - a) To Peter and Andrew He says, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately leave their nets and follow!

- b) He calls James and John (the sons of Zebedee).  
Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

(4) Miracles

- (a) Signs and wonders will be a hallmark of preaching the Kingdom!

1. Matthew 4:23-25

- a) Y'shua then goes around Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and disease among the people.
- b) Prophetic note: the Gospel of the Kingdom is the bulk of the message in the New Testament, not the Gospel of Salvation.
  - 1) The Gospel of Salvation: Christ saves you; it cost you nothing.
  - 2) The Gospel of the Kingdom: You become like Christ: it cost you everything!
- c) Y'shua's fame spread and great multitudes followed Him!

**B. Human Initiative Partners**

- (1) Now whose job is it?
  - (a) Y'shua, stay right here...



1. **“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”** Psalms 110:1  
NKJV

2. “And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **But this Man**, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.**” Hebrews 10:11-13  
NKJV

a) Y’shua...stay where You are until Your enemies are made Your footstool.

b) Who’s going to do that? He is talking about you!

(2) Power, Mission, Authority, Grace, Ambassadorship!

(a) Resurrection Power...

1. “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty**

**power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 1:17-20 NKJV

a) What will you do with it?

(b) A Mission with Authority...

1. “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore...**” Matthew 28:18-19 NKJV

a) What will you do with it?

(c) Power over the Enemy...

1. “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over **all the power** of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19 NKJV

a) What will you do with it?

(d) The Stewardship of Grace...

1. “Let no corrupt word proceed **out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may **impart grace** to the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

a) What will you do with it?

(e) The Ambassador’s Assignment...

1. “Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as **though God were pleading through us**: we implore

you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:20-21 NKJV

a) What will you do with it?

(3) Your turn!

(a) The Righteous Moment: **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** Matthew 3:17 NKJV

1. This is the prophetic connection that would not have happened had John not baptized Y'shua.
2. All righteousness was fulfilled when John connected Elijah and Moses to that prophetic moment in time.
3. It was about the coming restoration—the turning of hearts and [The Image of God](#) being restored to the earth.

### **Prophetic Declaration—Time Never Fails!**

When John announced the Messiah, it might be considered the most important event in the history of mankind up until that moment! *"For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John."* Every prophecy had coalesced around John's life and had amalgamated in one prophetic moment. "Do I baptize Him or NOT?" If he had walked away and not baptized Y'shua in that

moment—every prophecy would have crumbled into oblivion. It would have been as devastating as had Y’shua later chosen His own will and not that of His Father’s, and walked away from the Garden in Luke 22. Although, had John walked away first at the Jordan, Y’shua would have never reached the Garden. But, because John chose to submit to the call, everything converged into that one moment, and what came next merged every prophecy into one revelation... *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

The glue holding the whole thing together was the voice from heaven approving His Son. It confirmed the ministry of John the Baptizer as having been born with the spirit of Elijah, prophesied in Luke 1. But only for those who had ears to hear. *“If you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.”* Do you have ears to hear? That voice from heaven would also unite Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration, which sealed the final prophecy of the Old Testament in Malachi; *“Remember the Law of Moses... Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet...”*

This is that which defines the restoration of all things, which is the glory of man prophesied in Isaiah 40, connects John and Elijah in Matthew 17, is confirmed in Acts 3, and punctuated in the glory being revealed in the sons of God in Romans 8. That restoration is the manifestation of the Kingdom of heaven, the perfect [Image of](#)

[God](#) displayed in His people, via the restoration of the human family as the perfect representation of the Divine Family.

The reason Christ insisted on the baptism to fulfill all righteousness was because had John not baptized Y'shua, there would have been no voice from heaven. If there was no voice from heaven, we'd have had nothing to connect with the Transfiguration, the moment that sealed all the prophecies together. With no Transfiguration, Peter would've had no witness and we'd have had no prophetic words confirmed, so he would have had nothing to write about it in II Peter 1.

And that is why Y'shua insisted that John baptize Him, even though he was trying to opt out. His admonition to John in that moment, and to every forerunner who would later come in the spirit of Elijah, assigned to prepare the way for Y'shua's return, is this... *"Permit **it** to be so **now**, for thus **it** is fitting for **us** to fulfill all righteousness."*

*"Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"* Elijah has come, the spirit of Elijah in John, to pave the way. If he had not, we'd have nothing to look forward to! But he did, so indeed, Elijah is coming again before Y'shua returns, this time to restore all things. *"Permit **it** to be so **now**, for thus **it** is fitting for **us** to fulfill all righteousness."* If you don't, there will be no restoration. He's waiting on us! **Time Never Fails!**

## Summary: THE MOMENT

### 1. Do you know the time?

#### A. Preparing the Way (Parallel Gospel Mark 1:1-11)

(1) The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand!

(a) John's Calling Card (a bold prophetic declaration)

1. John the Baptist had emerged from his wilderness ministry preaching... *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*
2. The Jews were waiting on a Messiah who would defeat their oppressors and restore power to Israel.
3. Even after the resurrection they were still believing that Y'shua was there to restore an earthly kingdom.

(b) But, of what Kingdom was John speaking?

1. The Kingdom is within you! When John the Baptist came preaching, his message was to *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"* (see Matthew 3:1-2)  
Visualize this: He was pointing outward, at Christ, and telling us that we must return (home) to Yahweh (that is actually what it means to repent). And this is what it looks—the fullness of God manifesting in man, (the kingdom of God within you), look's like Christ!

2. When Christ emerged from the wilderness, He too began to preach, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* (Matthew 4:17) This time, He was pointing inward, at Himself. He is the epitome of the kingdom of God manifesting within man—the image of God—the home to which we must return.

(c) Where does the preparation take place?

a) In Matthew 3:3, John is identified as the first of the two-phase fulfillment of the Isaiah 40:3 prophecy regarding Elijah. I want you to notice a significant prophetic distinction in different translations of Isaiah:

1) [Sample #1] *“The voice of one **crying in the wilderness**: **“Prepare** the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.”*  
Isaiah 40:3 NKJV

2) [Sample #2] *“A voice of one **calling**: **“In the wilderness prepare** the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”*  
Isaiah 40:3 NIV

b) Which is prophetically correct? Simply notice the position of the punctuation in the boxes above. It completely changes the meaning.

- 1) Is John calling out from the wilderness saying it's time for preparation (Sample #1)?
- 2) Or, is John calling out saying that the preparation takes place in the wilderness (Sample #2)?
- 3) Matthew 4:1-4 makes clear that Y'shua is called into the wilderness to be tested and prepared.
- 4) The wilderness is the place of preparation, which is exactly what the Torah says in Deuteronomy 8:2
- 5) The people left Egypt to be tested and prepared in the wilderness.

(d) John was just the forerunner!

1. While John is doing baptisms with water for repentance, he speaks of Another who is coming after him.
2. John will point right at Y'shua in a moment.
3. Y'shua will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.
4. Y'shua is so much greater than John that he says he's not even worthy to carry His sandals.
5. Y'shua will separate the fruit from the hypocrites and burn all that is not of Him with unquenchable fire.

## **B. Who is John (the baptizer)?**



- (1) Why does he represent a pivotal moment in history? (Let's fast forward for a moment to understand.)
- (a) All the prophets and the law prophesied until John—because he represents Elijah!
1. John continued, right up to the end of his life, to question his role.
  2. “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” (Jesus assured him with evidence that He is the One!)
  3. Y'shua then assures everyone by referencing Malachi's prophecy that John is much more than a prophet. He is THE messenger who prepares the way for the MESSENGER. *“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.”*
  4. No man had ever been greater than John, but because his life represents the inflection point in history—all who are part of God's kingdom after him (the kingdom was at hand) are greater.
  5. And it will take [Spiritual Violence](#) to bring the kingdom. (An important idea to comprehend, and worthy of your time to study.)

6. \*Everything about the law and all the prophecies were pointing toward this one moment in history. *“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.”* (Mat. 11:14)
7. And...you may not be willing to hear it, but John is [the shadow of] Elijah who is to come.
8. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Hear what? John is not Elijah; instead, he represents Elijah! (Like we see was prophesied at his birth).

## (2) John’s Destiny from Birth

### (a) Prophecy before John’s Birth

1. Again this is a powerful, undeniable connection between John and Elijah, and even MORE CRITICAL, describes the ultimate ministry of Elijah at the end of the age—
2. The angel speaks to Zacharias, John’s father, and refers him to the last words of the Old Testament.
3. These words are vitally important for every Christian who ever lived. They are an integral part of the interwoven tapestry of prophecy, and are one of the pillars of this message, and why it is titled: Time Never Fails

4. First, the connection of Moses and Elijah here is why both Moses and Elijah appeared to Y'shua, Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. (More on this soon.)
5. Then, we see the connection of Elijah's ministry, to turn hearts, with the prophecy over John's life.
6. **Note:** Y'shua makes the ultimate connection between John (the baptizer) and Elijah, after Peter, James and John come down the mount of transfiguration...
7. ***Elijah has come already [we know from prophecy He means "the spirit of Elijah], Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist [who came in "the spirit and power of Elijah — Luke 1:17].***
8. And, when we look at the first three verses of Malachi 4...we see when the restoration will happen.
9. This is talking about the very end of the age, the second coming of Christ, not the first. And that is why John, who came to prepare the way for Christ, comes in the "spirit of Elijah" and not Elijah.
10. Elijah will come again to prepared a way for Christ's second coming. This also explains all of John's

confusion when he is questioned about about who he is in John 1:21. “Are you Elijah?” (More on this soon.)

11. In the end, in Malachi 4:6, we learn all that happens if you won’t obey this Prophet (Elijah) and his message of restoration (remember the Law of Moses) — the curse over creation remains! (More on this soon...but let’s get back to John birth.)

(b) Prophecy at John’s Circumcision

1. All the circumstances around John’s birth were supernatural, so on his circumcision and naming day (the eighth day), the people were ripe to recognize the moment. *“What kind of child will this be?”*

(c) Dad’s prophecy

1. Now, on that day, Zacharias (John’s father) was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied...
  - 1) The Messiah is coming (soon)!
  - 2) John will be **the prophet** of the Highest (one of the questions John will be asked later on in John 1:21 —“Are you the prophet?”—one that even has John confused—(more coming soon!)
  - 3) He will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways...(now John is connected to Isaiah 40:3...“A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness

***prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.***"

- 4) The dayspring (sunrise, new era) is yet another connection to Malachi 4:2 (*"The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings..."*)

(3) John (the Gospel writer) on John (the baptizer's) baptism of Christ

(a) John (the baptizer) came to bear witness...

1. John (the baptizer) came to introduce Y'shua as the Messiah.
2. John (the baptizer) proclaims that Y'shua is the preferred one!

(b) The voice in the wilderness—John is a bit unsure!

1. Even with all the prophecies and all that he does know, John (the baptizer) is still wildly confused about himself. Certainly this is why he asked Y'shua, *"Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"* (Matthew 11:3)
  - 1) "I am not the Christ."
  - 2) "Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "
  - 3) "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

- 4) “Who are you? What do you say about yourself?”  
He said: “I am (Isaiah 40:3) ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord...” (which is the Elijah ministry!)
  2. Why all the confusion? Because he is not THE—“Are you THE Elijah?” “Are you THE Prophet?” No, He is the Spirit of Elijah (Luke 1:17).
  3. Now when we look ahead, post resurrection, we see all of this prophecy come into focus! **“Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.”**
  4. And to put an exclamation point on the whole thing...
  5. “Yes, and **all the prophets have also foretold these days.**” It becomes abundantly clear that Peter is talking about John/Elijah, because he reiterates exactly what Y’shua said about John!
- (c) And then—THE PROPHETIC MOMENT—The Lamb of God—and His Baptism
1. Let’s study a few of these key prophetic pieces that John gives us before we get to our passage in Matthew about Y’shua’s baptism. John tells us WHY the baptism is THE KEY PROPHETIC MOMENT, but he does not include the KEY PROPHETIC

STATEMENT that will amalgamate all the prophecies (*“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*)—that is left for the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke).

- 1) John identifies Christ as the [Passover] Lamb of God who takes away sin!
- 2) John recognizes that the ultimate reason he was called to do baptisms was to reveal the Christ.
- 3) John admits he did not know until that very moment who the Christ was (even though he knew Y’shua his whole life), but that he was told (by God) that when he sees “the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, that would be the preferred one, the Son of God, who has come to baptize with the Holy Spirit.

**C. It—Now—Us (The Baptism of Christ)**

- (1) Why is the moment of Christ’s baptism so critical to us, as Christians, EVEN NOW?
  - (a) John tried to avoid doing it!
    1. Y’shua comes to John to be baptized and John tries to swap places, as he feels unworthy. He’d rather Y’shua baptize him.

2. But, Y'shua requires it because it is the right order of things (to fulfill all righteousness).
3. In other words—Christ knows the prophecies that are connected with this prophetic moment!
4. John (Elijah) must come first (to restore all things).  
Why? Y'shua knows all that is involved in the order of that restoration!
5. So, John allows Him to be baptized, and immediately the heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him (that was the sign God told John to look for in John 1:33), and the affirming voice of the Father comes from heaven—linking, in perfect time, the present to the near future, and the past to the distant future. *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* Time Never Fails!

(2) The Transfiguration (The Key Prophetic Glue)

- (a) It is not a coincidence that the Father connects Y'shua's baptism (the present moment in Matthew 3) with the transfiguration and Elijah (the near future in Matthew 17:1-13) with the same affirmation. *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”*
- (b) Is it congealing in your mind?



- 1) Time Never Fails! It is all folding in on itself—past, present and future—in this one prophetic moment!
  - 2) *“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”*
  - 3) Moses and Elijah are connected to Y’shua’s baptism.
  - 4) Elijah and the Restoration of all things (Acts 3:21) are connected to Y’shua’s baptism.
  - 5) The Father instructed John to perform the baptism (John 1:31-33) because he (John) came in the Spirit and Power of Elijah (Luke 1:17).
  6. Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!
  7. And just like His mother’s voice would proclaim at His first public Miracle—*“Whatever He says to you, do it.”*
  8. Sound familiar? This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him and do what He says!
- (3) No coincidences!
- (a) The Father connects all the pieces together!
    1. Are you ready? Tap into your Prophetic Brain!

- 1) The Transfiguration connects Y'shua's baptism with Moses and Elijah via the same affirmation... *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
- 2) The Transfiguration then connects to the past in Malachi 4:4-6 with Moses and Elijah.
- 3) And John, as the Prophet who prepares the way (Matthew 3:3 & Isaiah 40:3), connects himself, as Elijah, the prophet who restores all things (Acts 3:21 & Matthew 17:11) to Isaiah 40.
- 4) Isaiah 40:5 connects us to what that restoration looks like in the distant future when the glory of God is revealed, which is later described in Romans 8:18-22.
- 5) Romans 8:18-22 connects to what the restoration looks like and when it will occur.
- 6) And it also connects us right back to what happens if we do not have the restoration—the curse over creation remains (Malachi 4:6; Acts 3:23; and Deuteronomy 18:19).

(4) Back to John's birth narrative...

(a) Connection to Matthew 17 & Malachi 4:

1. John's birth is linked to the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:11-13, via Elijah.

2. John's birth is linked to Malachi 4:6 (turning hearts—the final prophecy of the Old Testament)
  3. John's birth is linked to Isaiah 40:3 (he goes before Christ to prepare a way in the wilderness to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom—glory being revealed.)
  4. John's birth is connected to The Prophet (Acts 3: 22, 24 & Matthew 11:12-14)
- (5) And then there is Peter... He was there at the Transfiguration!
- (a) Peter was an eyewitness!
1. He saw Moses and Elijah
  2. He heard the voice! *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
  3. He recognized that this IS the prophetic word confirmed! This links all the pieces together.
  4. And they are to be described and disseminated by *"holy men of God speak as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*
  5. Who is that? That was them and that is us! ***"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."*** (Matthew 3:15)

6. **Time never fails:** “Permit “it,” permit it “now,” and permit it for “us,” If you don’t, all the prophecies, past, present, and future crumble into dust.

**D. Time Never Fails because Love Never Fails, and**

(1) His Word never fails...

(a) Love never fails...

1. **For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect [Greek root *telos*]**
2. God is love and love never fails!
3. We only know **in part** until what is **perfect** has come! **But what does perfect mean?** \*\*\*Are we waiting for Christ to come back or are we waiting for Christians to become like Christ?\*\*\*
4. We can gather hints by looking at the same word “*perfect*” [Greek root *telos*] throughout the Scriptures! **Telos:** having reached its end, complete, perfect, complete in all its parts, full grown, of full age, mature, specially of the completeness of Christian character. I think that last definition fits each scripture perfectly!

(b) How can you even grasp the idea of [*telos—completeness of Christian character*]?

1. Don’t miss the moment!

2. Seek Yahweh; repent; return home to Yahweh (See: [Best Supporting Actor](#))
3. But aren't His thoughts too high for us to grasp? This brings us right back to Isaiah 40!
4. And Paul also asked the same question...
5. But, then he gives us the answer? Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who can grasp the idea of [telos—completeness of Christian character]? **WE CAN! We have the mind of Christ.**

(c) And if God said so, it is so!

1. His Word will accomplish what He said it will!
2. *“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”* (Matthew 3:15)
3. And it was so! Time Never Fails! Y'shua was Baptized, by John, so all of those prophecies would fold in on themselves in a prophetic moment in time...*to fulfill all righteousness and because His word shall not return void!*

(2) Signs of the Times—Can you tell what time it is?

- (a) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed: *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (II Peter 1:17, 19)

1. You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times, or can you?
2. It's time...to fulfill all righteousness!
3. These are the prophetic connections that would not have happened had Y'shua not been baptized by John!

### **Summary: THE TEST**

## **2. Do you know the Word?**

### **A. Provision & Obedience (If you are the son of God...?)**

#### (1) Test #1

##### (a) Faith, trust, seek first...

1. Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for the final preparation of His ministry. The wilderness is a place of testing and preparation—(See Deuteronomy 8:1-3).
2. After forty days and forty nights of fasting, the devil tempts Him to turn stones into bread, and we get the prophetic affirmation of why Y'shua was in the wilderness—to be tested—to be made ready!
3. Y'shua quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

## **B. Manipulation & Control (If you are the son of God...?)**

### (1) Test #2

#### (a) Transgressing physical law (gravity)

1. Then the devil takes him to the top of the temple in Jerusalem, and tells Him to toss himself off because, as the Son of God, angels will catch him according to the Scriptures. The devils makes a direct reference to Psalms 91:11-12:
2. Jesus again tells the devil it is written (quoting Deut. 6:16), "**You shall not tempt the Lord your God.**"
3. What would have Y'shua been tempting the Father to do? To break his own laws of nature.

## **C. Power & Position (If you will worship me...?)**

### (1) Test #3

#### (a) The devil holds the title deed to the earth, son he makes an offer...

1. Then, the devil showed Y'shua all the kingdoms of the world and offered to give them to Him, if He would fall down and worship him.
2. Y'shua tells Satan to get lost, and then he refers Satan to Deuteronomy 6:13; "**You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only** you shall serve.
3. Resist the devil and he will flee!

## Summary: THE MINISTRY

### 3. Do you know the mission?

#### A. Let the Ministry Begin!

(1) Begin where you are told to begin...

(a) Out of the wilderness

1. Y'shua exits the wilderness and discovers John had been arrested and placed in prison.
2. He goes to Capernaum first (to fulfill Isaiah 9:1-2) and begins His ministry (at the perfect time) by picking up, with the same words, where John left off!
3. And this is exactly for what John the Baptizer was preparing the way!

(2) The end of one ministry and the beginning of another...

(a) John started it...no prophet more important than him had ever lived! And Y'shua picked up where he left off...

1. John was in prison—his ministry was passing away—He knew “He [Y'shua] must increase, but I [John] must decrease.” (John 3:30)
2. Now was the time for Y'shua to and advance the Gospel of the kingdom. Time never fails!

(3) Disciples

(a) Y'shua then calls four of His twelve disciples



1. To Peter and Andrew He says, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately leave their nets and follow!
2. He calls James and John (the sons of Zebedee). Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

(4) Miracles

(a) Signs and wonders will be a hallmark of preaching the Kingdom! Y'shua's fame spread and great multitudes followed Him!

1. Y'shua then goes around Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and disease among the people.
2. Prophetic note: the Gospel of the Kingdom is the bulk of the message in the New Testament, not the Gospel of Salvation.
  - 1) The Gospel of Salvation: Christ saves you; it cost you nothing.
  - 2) The Gospel of the Kingdom: You become like Christ: it cost you everything!

**B. Human Initiative Partners**

(1) Your turn!

- (a) The Righteous Moment: **This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**
  - 1. This is the prophetic connection that would not have happened had John not baptized Y'shua.
  - 2. All righteousness was fulfilled when John connected Elijah and Moses to that prophetic moment in time.
  - 3. It was about the coming restoration—the turning of hearts and [The Image of God](#) being restored to the earth.
- (2) Now whose job is it?
  - (a) Y'shua, stay right here...
    - 1. Y'shua...stay where You are until Your enemies are made Your footstool.
    - 2. Who's going to do that? He is talking about you!
- (3) Power, Mission, Authority, Grace, Ambassadorship!
  - (a) Resurrection Power...What will you do with it?
  - (b) A Mission with Authority...What will you do with it?
  - (c) Power over the Enemy...What will you do with it?
  - (d) The Stewardship of Grace...What will you do with it?
  - (e) The Ambassador's Assignment...What will you do with it?

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION (REFER TO SERMON NOTES & VIDEO TO HELP)

### 1. Read Matthew 3-4:

- A. What message does both John and Y'shua share?
- B. What kind of kingdom were the people of Israel expecting from the Messiah according to Acts 1:4-6?

### 2. What was John expected to do according to Matthew 3:3?

- A. This was John's role in the interim fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3. Look up that verse in both NKJV and the NIV and explain the difference. (Hint: think punctuation not words.)
- B. Why is it significant?
- C. Which do you believe is the correct version and why? (Hint: see Matthew 4:1-4 and Deuteronomy 8:2)

### 3. Read Matthew 11:1-15; Luke 1:13-17; 1:59-66; 1:67-80; John 1:6-9; 1:14-15; and 1:19-27...

- A. Why do you think John remained confused (See John 1:19-27) about his calling? Consider ALL the above scriptures. (Hint: Luke 1:17)
- B. Relate the following prophecies to John and write a short narrative about them. (See: Malachi 3:1; 4:1-6; Matthew 17:11-13)
- C. How do Acts 3:18-23 and Matthew 17:11-13 relate?
- D. How do Acts 3:24 and Matthew 11:12-14 relate?

### 4. Read John 1:29-34...

- A. What does John realize about why he was called to do baptisms?
- B. In Matthew 3:13-17, John attempts to avoid baptizing Y'shua. Why?
- C. What is Y'shua's response?
- D. What happens because John baptizes Y'shua?
- E. How does this relate to Matthew 17:1-13?
- F. Why might we consider the connection between the two incidents exactly what Y'shua meant by "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."?

**5. Piece the following scripture verses together: (See: Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:11; Acts 3:21-23; Isaiah 40:1-5; Romans 8:18-22)**

- A. How does the Transfiguration connect Y'shua's baptism with Moses and Elijah?
- B. How is the Transfiguration connected to Malachi 4:4-6?
- C. How is John's birth in Luke 1:16-17 linked to the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:11-13, via Elijah?
- D. How is John's birth in Luke 1:16-17 connected to the Prophet in Acts 3: 22-24 & Matthew 11:12-14?
- E. How is this all related to II Peter 1:16-21 and how are Peter's words related to Y'shua statement: "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."?

**6. Consider this connecting phrase: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**

A. Relate Isaiah 55:11 with Y’shua baptism in Matthew 3:13-17, the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-13, and Peter’s testimony in II Peter 1:16-21.

B. How are Moses, Elijah and John the Baptizer all connected?  
(Hint: Malachi 4:1-6)

**7. Describe the three temptations of Christ in Matthew 4:1-11.**