



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

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

Title:

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

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
2. "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
3. "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.

(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

2. [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
3. [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
4. “...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.” Deuteronomy 8:2

(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

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)

2. **"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**
3. "He [John] will also go before Him **in the spirit and power of Elijah...**" Luke 1:17 NKJV

(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
2. **"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
3. "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." **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
4. **"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)

(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

(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

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

(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

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
- (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
 2. [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. **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** ["Jesus answered... "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things." (Matthew 17:11) Y'shua remains where He us until then!], 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** [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) from your brethren. 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** [Malachi 4:6—lest He strike the earth with a curse—the curse of the fall of creation will remain over the earth!] from among the people.'" Acts 3:18-23 NKJV

3. *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, 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
 4. **“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
 5. *“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

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

- (1) Why is the moment of Christ’s baptism so critical to us, as Christians, right now?
 - (a) And 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.** 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*]

(2) The Transfiguration (The Key Prophetic Glue)

(a) It is not a coincidence that the Father connects Y'shua's baptism:

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
4. "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

(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
- (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
- (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

2. "**Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" (Matthew 3:15)

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
2. "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
3. "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
4. "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
5. "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
6. "For Christ is the **end** *[telos—completeness of Christian character]* of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Romans 10:4 NKJV
7. "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

8. "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
 2. **"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
 3. "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
 4. "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
- (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
- (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

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
2. "'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
2. "**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

3. **“You shall not tempt the Lord your God** as you tempted Him in Massah.”

Deuteronomy 6:16 NKJV

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
2. **“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)
3. “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) Explanation

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
2. **“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

B. Human Initiative Partners

- (1) Your turn!

(a) The Righteous Moment

1. **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** Matthew 3:17 NKJV
- (2) 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
- (3) 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
 - (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
 - (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
 - (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
 - (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