

**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS**  
**20/20 Vision in 2020**  
**LESSON STUDY: *Simplicity of the Gospel***  
**December 12, 2020**

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**ELIJAH THE PROPHET – TO PREPARE THE WAY**

**The Gospel Simplified: Jesus In, Satan Out**

**SCRIPTURE: MALACHI 4:5**

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:”

**John the Baptist & Elijah**

**Who did Jesus say was Elijah in his day?**

1. Matt. 17:11-13: “<sup>11</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist;”
2. Matt. 11:11-14: “<sup>11</sup> Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup> And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup> For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup> And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.”

**When they asked John was he Elijah, what did he say?**

3. John 1:21,23: “<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. <sup>23</sup> He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.”

**What message did the first Elijah give?**

4. James 5:17,18: “<sup>17</sup> Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”
5. 1 Kings 17:1: “<sup>1</sup> And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. 1 Kings 18:17,18,20,21: “<sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?, <sup>18</sup> And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. <sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”

**Did Elijah's message have an effect on the people?**

6. 1 Kings 18:36-39: “<sup>36</sup> And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. <sup>37</sup> Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. <sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.”

## John the Baptist

### **What was the burden of the message of John the Baptist?**

7. Matt. 3:1-3,8,10: <sup>1</sup>"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, <sup>2</sup>And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. <sup>3</sup>For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>8</sup>Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: <sup>10</sup>And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."

### **What was the result of this message given by John?**

8. Matt. 3:5-6: <sup>5</sup>Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, <sup>6</sup>And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins."

### **Who did the people think John was?**

9. Luke 3:15-16: <sup>15</sup>And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; <sup>16</sup>John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:"

### **Why was John put in prison, and for what reason?**

10. Matt. 14:3,4,6,8,10: <sup>3</sup>For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. <sup>4</sup>For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. <sup>6</sup>But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. <sup>8</sup>And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. <sup>10</sup>And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison."

### **Will God send Elijah again before the end of time?**

11. Mal. 4:5: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:"

### **Who are they?**

12. Rev. 14:12: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

### **What messages will they give to the whole world?**

## THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES: THE THREE C'S

### ***The First Angel's Message: Worship the Creator (The First C)***

13. Rev. 14:6,7: <sup>6</sup>And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, <sup>7</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

14. Col. 1:12,13,16,17: <sup>12</sup>Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; <sup>13</sup>Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: <sup>16</sup>For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

15. John 1:1-3: “<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup>All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

**The hour of His judgment is come.**

16. 2 Cor. 5:10: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

17. Eccl. 12:13,14: “<sup>13</sup>Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup>For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

***The Second Angel’s Message: Beware of the Counterfeit Religion (The Second C)***

18. Rev. 14:8: “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

19. Rev. 18:1,2,4: “<sup>1</sup>And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. <sup>2</sup>And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. <sup>4</sup>And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

***The Third Angel’s Message: Everyone Must Make a Choice (The Third C)***

20. Rev. 14:9-11: “<sup>9</sup>And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, <sup>10</sup>The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: <sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

21. 2 Thes. 2:8-10: “<sup>8</sup>And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: <sup>9</sup>Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders<sup>10</sup>And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

**What is the difference between those who are save and those who are lost? How will the righteous stand in the judgement?**

22. 1 John 4:16,17: “<sup>16</sup>And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup>Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”

**We have something to look forward to if we open the doors of our hearts. Jesus in, Satan out.**

23. Rev. 3:20,21: “<sup>20</sup>Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup>To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

**Will you make that choice today?**

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