

8. **John Was The “Advance Man” In Prophecy & Reality** Isaiah prophesied (40:3-5) “*The _____ of him that crieth in the _____.*” John “*was in the _____*” (Lk 1:80) until he came forth in his ministry but common sense tells us that he didn’t preach to rocks and shrubs in an uninhabited place. His mission (Isa 40:3) was to “*prepare----the _____ of the LORD, make _____ in the desert a _____ for our God.*” He would assure that “*every valley shall be _____, and every mountain and hill shall be _____: and the _____ shall be made _____, and the _____ places _____.*” His work was to prepare the people’s hearts for the (1 Tim 6:15) “*the King of _____, and Lord of _____.*”
9. **John’s Message Was Simple** It was GET READY because the MESSIAH is about to come and (Mt 3:2) “*the _____ of heaven is _____.*” Later Jesus preached the same (Mk 1:15) “*saying, the time is _____, and the _____ of God is at _____: _____ ye, and _____ the gospel.*” Neither would physically live to see the “gospel age” since John was _____ (Mt 14:10) and later Jesus was _____ (Mt 27:35).
10. **John: On The Kingdom** He preached over and over “*Repent ye: for the _____ of _____ is at hand.*” The Jews had long been *out of power*. Several hundred years earlier the nation of Israel had divided. The Northern Kingdom fell to Sennacherib and the Assyrians. A mere hundred years later Babylon captured the Kingdom of Judah. The dispossessed Jews hated the current Roman government under which they were but a vassal state. They longed for national sovereignty. Nicodemus misunderstood the nature of the kingdom (Jn 3) and even the apostles asked Jesus (Acts 1:6) just before his ascension, “*Lord, wilt thou at _____ restore _____ the kingdom _____ Israel?*” Many today still get it wrong. Don’t be guilty!
11. **The Kingdom Was At Hand** Like the First Century Jews, many misunderstand the nature of this kingdom of promise and prophecy, but no one then misunderstood that it was *imminent, soon-to-come, nearby, close-at-hand*. Jesus said: (Mk 9:1) “*There be some of them that _____, which shall not _____ of _____, till they have _____ the _____ of God _____ with power.*” Whatever it was, however it was constituted, it c-a-m-e.
12. **It Was Not A King-Less Kingdom** When the kingdom came, the king would come. You can’t have a kingdom without a king, citizens, and a territory. Jesus eliminates all doubt that the king (ie: the “*Son of man*”) would come with his kingdom in the First Century AD. (Mt 16:28) “*There be some _____, which shall not taste of death, till they _____ the Son of man _____ in _____.*” This is what John and Jesus preached.
13. **Jesus: On John The Baptist** (Mt 11:10) “*For this _____, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my _____ before thy face, which _____ thy way before thee.*” Through Jesus (Titus 2:11) “*the grace of God that bringeth salvation _____ to all men*” and John was paving the way for (Rom 1:16) “*the _____ of Christ---to the _____ first*” and later, of course, “*also to the _____.*” Jesus (Mt 11:11) said, “*There hath not risen _____ than John the Baptist*” and added, “*notwithstanding he that is _____ in the _____ of heaven _____ than he.*” The kingdom came shortly after the death of John and Jesus. John was never in the kingdom. John prepared material (ie: people) for it.
14. **What Being Prepared Meant** When the Pentecost of Acts 2 came the apostles were automatically “set in” the kingdom, or church, because of their receiving the preparatory baptism of John. So were all others who had received John’s Baptism. That was the design and purpose of it. After Jesus shed his blood and the NT Church was established the Baptism of John lost its validity as preparation period had expired. That’s why (Acts 19:1ff) “*certain _____,*” years after Pentecost, (V5) “*were baptized in the _____ of the _____*” even though they had (since Pentecost) received the Baptism of John. NT baptism (Acts 2:38) “*for the _____ of sins*” is permanent.