

THE FORERUNNER OF CHRIST

DAILY READINGS:

Monday: Isaiah 40:1-11
Tuesday: Luke 3:1-18
Wednesday: Matthew 3
Thursday: Mark 1:1-11
Friday: John 1:19-34
Saturday: John 3:23-36; 5:33-35
Sunday: Acts 13:14-26

Isaiah 40:3

**The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路
(或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路)，
在沙漠地修平我們神的道。

INTRODUCTION:

When Cain was born, Eve thought that she had brought forth the promised redeemer ([Gen. 4:1](#)). This was not so, but the promise was renewed and made more specific over and over again throughout the Old Testament times. Isaiah was the first to prophesy of a forerunner to the Messiah ([Isa. 40:3](#)). This forerunner was to prepare the way for the anointed of God. He would be a voice crying in the wilderness, preparing the way for the glory of the Lord to be revealed.

WHEN CAIN WAS BORN, EVE THOUGHT THAT SHE HAD BROUGHT FORTH THE PROMISED REDEEMER

Genesis 4:1	And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. 有一日，那人和他妻子夏娃同房，夏娃就懷孕，生了該隱(就是得的意思)，便說：耶和華使我得了一個男子。
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ISAIAH WAS THE FIRST TO PROPHECY OF A FORERUNNER TO THE MESSIAH

Isaiah 40:3	The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路(或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路)，在沙漠地修平我們神的道。
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Malachi also prophesied of this one who was to prepare the way for the messenger of the new covenant ([Malachi 3:1](#)). The Old Testament close with the promise that God will send Elijah the prophet before the day the Lord ([Mal. 4:5](#))

Malachi 3:1	Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 萬軍之耶和華說：我要差遣我的使者在我前面預備道路。你們所尋求的主必忽然進入他的殿；立約的使者，就是你們所仰慕的，快要來到。
Malachi	⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of

4:5-6	<p>the LORD: 看哪·耶和華大而可畏之日未到以前·我必差遣先知以利亞到你們那裡去</p> <p>⁶And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. 他必使父親的心轉向兒女·兒女的心轉向父親·免得我來咒詛遍地。</p>
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LESSON NOTES:

The Person of John: An angel promised the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias and Elisabeth who were past the age for having children. The angel also gave the promised son his name: John. He was to be "great in the sight of the Lord." Strong drink and wine were forbidden him but he was to be "filled with the Holy Spirit even from mother's womb" ([Luke 1:15](#)). All those acquainted with the facts of John's birth wondered what manner of child he would be ([Luke 1:66](#)).

Luke 1:15	<p>For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. 他在主面前將要為大·淡酒濃酒都不喝·從母腹裡就被聖靈充滿了。</p>
Luke 1:66	<p>And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him." 凡聽見的人都將這事放在心裡·說：這個孩子將來怎麼樣呢？因為有主與他同在。</p>

About thirty years later, after spending considerable time in the wilderness, John began his ministry ([Luke 1:80](#)). He preached repentance from sin to an ever-increasing congregation of Jews ([Matt. 3:5](#)). He wore coarse camel skin with a leather belt and fed on wild honey and locusts in striking contrast to the ornately clothed Pharisees who loved feasts ([Matt. 3:4](#); [Luke 20:46](#)). His preaching was so effective and his ministry so successful that the Pharisees sent representatives to him demanding to know who he was ([John 1:19](#)). The general public also mused in their hearts whether John was the Messiah or not ([Luke 3:15](#)). He "confessed and denied not; but confessed I am not the Christ" ([John 1:20](#)). He explained that though he was baptizing with water, a mightier one was coming who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire ([Luke 3:16](#)).

ABOUT THIRTY YEARS LATER, AFTER SPENDING CONSIDERABLE TIME IN THE WILDERNESS, JOHN BEGAN HIS MINISTRY

Luke 1:80	<p>And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel. 那孩子漸漸長大·心靈強健·住在曠野·直到他顯明在以色列人面前的日子</p>
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JOHN PREACHED REPENTANCE FROM SIN TO AN EVER-INCREASING CONGREGATION OF JEWS

Matthew 3:5	<p>Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 那時·耶路撒冷和猶太全地·並約但河一帶地方的人·都出去到約翰那裡,</p>
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JOHN WORE COARSE CAMEL SKIN WITH A LEATHER BELT AND FED ON WILD HONEY AND LOCUSTS IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO THE ORNATELY CLOTHED PHARISEES WHO LOVED FEASTS

Matthew 3:4	Luke 20:46
<p>And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 這約翰身穿駱駝毛的衣服·腰束皮帶·吃的是蝗蟲·野蜜。</p>	<p>Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; 你們要防備文士·他們好穿長衣遊行·喜愛人</p>

在街市上問他們安，又喜愛會堂裡的高位，筵席上的首座；

John 1:19	And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? 約翰所作的見證記在下面：猶太人從耶路撒冷差祭司和利未人到約翰那裡，問他說：「你是誰？」
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Luke 3:15	And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; 百姓指望基督來的時候，人都心裡猜疑，或者約翰是基督。
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John 1:20	And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. 他就明說，並不隱瞞，明說：「我不是基督。」
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Luke 3:16	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: 約翰說：我是用水給你們施洗，但有一位能力比我更大的要來，我就是給他解鞋帶也不配。他要用聖靈與火給你們施洗。
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The priests pressed John further, "What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No" (John 1:21). When they insisted on an answer for those who sent them, John declared, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias" (John 1:23; Isa. 40:3).

John 1:21	And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. 他們又問他說：「這樣，你是誰呢？是以利亞嗎？」他說：「我不是。」「是那先知嗎？」他回答說：「不是。」
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John 1:23	Isaiah 40:3
He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias (Isaiah 40:3). 他說：「我就是那在曠野有人聲喊著說：『修直主的道路』，正如先知以賽亞所說的。」	The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路（或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路），在沙漠地修平我們神的道。

Later, when some of John's disciples were jealous for John because of Jesus' popularity, he declared, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Jesus subsequently asserted that "among them that are born of women, there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist" (Matt. 11:11). Jesus also told His disciples that if they could receive it, John was Elijah which was to come (Matt. 11:14; Mal. 4:5). The Apostle Paul in his first recorded sermon declared unequivocally (clearly) that John had fulfilled his course (Acts 13:25).

John	He must increase, but I must decrease.
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3:30	他必興旺，我必衰微。」
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JESUS SUBSEQUENTLY ASSERTED THAT "AMONG THEM THAT ARE BORN OF WOMEN, THERE HATH NOT RISEN A GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST"

Matthew 11:11	<p>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.</p> <p>我實在告訴你們，凡婦人所生的，沒有一個興起來大過施洗約翰的；然而天國裡最小的比他還大。</p>
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JESUS ALSO TOLD HIS DISCIPLES THAT IF THEY COULD RECEIVE IT, JOHN WAS ELIJAH WHICH WAS TO COME

Matthew 11:14	Malachi 4:5
<p>And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.</p> <p>你們若肯領受，這人就是那應當來的以利亞。</p>	<p>Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:</p> <p>看哪，耶和華大而可畏之日未到以前，我必差遣先知以利亞到你們那裡去。</p>

THE APOSTLE PAUL IN HIS FIRST RECORDED SERMON DECLARED UNEQUIVOCALLY (CLEARLY) THAT JOHN HAD FULFILLED HIS COURSE

Acts 13:25	<p>And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.</p> <p>約翰將行盡他的程途說：你們以為我是誰？我不是基督；只是有一位在我以後來的，我解他腳上的鞋帶也是不配的。</p>
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The Message of John: The great burden of the Baptist's message was repentance. The Messiah was already among them and would soon be manifested. Therefore, in preparation for His appearance, everything crooked should be made straight. His baptism signified a complete break from the former manner of life. John's ministry was very effective. All Jerusalem and Judea went out to hear him (Matt. 3:5). Many were baptized by him. John's message was a relevant message. He warned the Pharisees who came to his baptism to "bring forth fruits meet for repentance" (Matt. 3:8). In a remarkable departure from the popular doctrine, John told the Pharisees that their descent from Abraham was of little value, but that God was able to raise up children of Abraham from the very stones on Jordan's bank (Matt. 3:9).

In all his emphasis on the imminent coming of the Messiah, John retained a relevant message for daily life. He exhorted the people to generous acts of charity (Luke 3:11). The tax collectors he admonished to "exact no more than that which is appointed" (v.13). His advice to the soldiers was to avoid violence, to accuse no man falsely, and to be content with their wages (v.14). It is astonishing that soldiers should even come to hear him.

To: Pharisees (Matthew 3:8-9)	To: the People (Luke 3:11)	To: Tax collectors (Luke 3:13)	To: Soldiers (Luke 3:14)
<p>Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:</p> <p>你們要結出果子來，與悔改的心相稱。</p> <p>And think not to say within yourselves, We</p>	<p>He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.</p> <p>約翰回答說：有兩件衣裳的，就分給那沒有</p>	<p>And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.</p> <p>約翰說：除了例定的數目，不要多取。</p>	<p>And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.</p>

<p>have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.</p> <p>不要自己心裡說：有亞伯拉罕為我們的祖宗。我告訴你們，神能從這些石頭中給亞伯拉罕興起子孫來。</p>	<p>的；有食物的，也當這樣行。</p>		<p>又有兵丁問他說：我們當作甚麼呢？約翰說：不要以強暴待人，也不要訛詐人，自己有錢糧就當知足。</p>
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When Jesus himself came to be baptized, John protested. But Jesus affirmed, "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness" ([Matt. 3:15](#)). Thereafter John pointed his disciples to Jesus, "the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" ([John 1:29](#)). His course was fulfilled. He was content to fade into obscurity created by the One whose way he had come to prepare. "This my joy therefore is fulfilled" ([John 3:29](#)).

WHEN JESUS HIMSELF CAME TO BE BAPTIZED, JOHN PROTESTED. BUT JESUS AFFIRMED, "THUS IT BECOMETH US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS"

<p>Matthew 3:15</p>	<p>And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.</p> <p>耶穌回答說：你暫且許我，因為我們理當這樣盡諸般的義（或作：禮）。於是約翰許了他。</p>
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JOHN POINTED HIS DISCIPLES TO JESUS, "THE LAMB OF GOD WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD"

<p>John 1:29</p>	<p>The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.</p> <p>次日，約翰看見耶穌來到他那裡，就說：「看哪，神的羔羊，除去（或譯：背負）世人罪孽的！」</p>
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JOHN'S COURSE WAS FULFILLED. HE WAS CONTENT TO FADE INTO OBSCURITY...

<p>John 3:29</p>	<p>He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.</p> <p>娶新婦的就是新郎；新郎的朋友站著，聽見新郎的聲音就甚喜樂。故此，我這喜樂滿足了。</p>
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THE LESSONS:

Preparation was necessary before the Lord's earthly ministry. John, full of the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb was sent to accomplish that preparation. *In like manner today, the Lord has raised up Spirit-filled vessels to prepare the way for the second triumphant coming of our Lord to the earth.*

John's message was extremely simple and practical. It is important for us to maintain the simplicity of the gospel. Our message relates to the life now as well as to that in eternity. *Pleasing our Lord in holy living and acceptable service is our true preparation for His second coming.* Let us be careful not to lose the practical message in a fantastic preoccupation with the manner of the Lord's return.

The angel said John should not drink wine nor strong drink, but he would be filled with the Holy Spirit ([Luke 1:15](#)). Paul used the same comparison in his letter to the Ephesians: "Be not drunk with wine ... but be

filled with the Spirit" ([Eph. 5:18](#)). This, in connection with Paul's teaching that drunkards cannot enter the Kingdom of God ([1 Cor. 6:10](#); [Gal. 5:21](#)), and his plea to avoid stumbling a brother ([Rom. 14:21](#); [1 Cor. 8:13](#)) form the Biblical basis for total abstinence from wine and strong drink. There is at least the subtle suggestion that imbibing strong drink and being filled with the Holy Spirit are contrary one to the other. We do well to follow the example of John whom Jesus called "a burning and a shining light" ([John 5:35](#)).

<p>Luke 1:15</p>	<p>Ephesians 5:18</p>
<p>For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. 他在主面前將要為大，淡酒濃酒都不喝，從母腹裡就被聖靈充滿了。</p>	<p>And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 不要醉酒，酒能使人放蕩；乃要被聖靈充滿。</p>

PAUL TEACHES THAT DRUNKARDS CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

<p>1 Corinthians 6:10</p>	<p>Galatians 5:21</p>
<p>Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 偷竊的、貪婪的、醉酒的、辱罵的、勒索的，都不能承受神的國。</p>	<p>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 嫉妒（有古卷在此有：兇殺二字）、醉酒、荒宴等類。我從前告訴你們，現在又告訴你們，行這樣事的人必不能承受神的國。</p>

PAUL PLEAS TO AVOID STUMBLING A BROTHER

<p>Romans 14:21</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 8:13</p>
<p>It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. 無論是吃肉，是喝酒，是甚麼別的事，叫弟兄跌倒，一概不做才好。</p>	<p>Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. 所以，食物若叫我弟兄跌倒，我就永遠不吃肉，免得叫我弟兄跌倒了。</p>

WE DO WELL TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JOHN WHOM JESUS CALLED "A BURNING AND A SHINING LIGHT"

<p>John 5:35</p>	<p>He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. 約翰是點著的明燈，你們情願暫時喜歡他的光。</p>
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Monday: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

你們的神說：你們要安慰，安慰我的百姓。

²Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

要對耶路撒冷說安慰的話，又向他宣告說，他爭戰的日子已滿了；他的罪孽赦免了；他為自己的一切罪，從耶和華手中加倍受罰。

³The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路（或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路），在沙漠地修平我們神的道。

⁴Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

一切山窪都要填滿，大小山岡都要削平；高高低低得要改為平坦，崎嶇的必成為平原。

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

耶和華的榮耀必然顯現；凡有血氣的必一同看見；因為這是耶和華親口說的。

Isaiah 40:6-8	1 Peter 1:24-25
<p>⁶The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field:</p> <p>有人聲說：你喊叫罷！有一個說：我喊叫甚麼呢？說：凡有血氣的盡都如草；他的美容都像野地的花。</p> <p>⁷The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.</p> <p>草必枯乾，花必凋殘，因為耶和華的氣吹在其上；百姓誠然是草。</p> <p>⁸The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.</p> <p>草必枯乾，花必凋殘，惟有我們神的話必永遠立定。</p>	<p>²⁴For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:</p> <p>因為凡有血氣的，盡都如草；他的美榮都像草上的花。草必枯乾，花必凋謝；</p> <p>²⁵But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. 惟有主的道是永存的。所傳給你們的福音就是這道。</p>

⁹O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

報好消息給錫安的啊，你要登高山；報好消息給耶路撒冷的啊，你要極力揚聲。揚聲不要懼怕，對猶大的城邑說：看哪，你們的神！

10Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

主耶和華必像大能者臨到；他的膀臂必為他掌權。他的賞賜在他那裡；他的報應在他面前。

11He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

他必像牧人牧養自己的羊群，用膀臂聚集羊羔抱在懷中，慢慢引導那乳養小羊的。

Tuesday: Luke 3:1-18

¹Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

該撒提庇留在位第十五個年，本丟彼拉多作猶太巡撫，希律作加利利分封的王，他兄弟腓力作以士利亞和特拉可尼地方分封的王，呂撒聶作亞比利尼分封的王。

²Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

亞那和該亞法作大祭司。那時，撒迦利亞的兒子約翰在曠野裡，神的話臨到他。

³And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

他就來到約但河一帶地方，宣講悔改的洗禮，使罪得赦。

Luke 3:4-6	Isaiah 40:3-5
<p>⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet (<i>Isaiah 40:3-5</i>), saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</p>	<p>The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.</p>
<p>正如先知以賽亞書上所記的話，說：在曠野有人聲喊著說：預備主的道，修直他的路！</p>	<p>有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路（或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路），在沙漠地修平我們神的道。</p>
<p>⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;</p>	<p>⁴Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:</p>
<p>一切山窪都要填滿；大小山岡都要削平；彎彎曲曲的地方要改為正直；高高低低的道路要改為平坦！</p>	<p>一切山窪都要填滿，大小山岡都要削平；高高低低的要改為平坦，崎嶇的必成為平原。</p>
<p>⁶And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.</p>	<p>⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.</p>
<p>凡有血氣的，都要見神的救恩！</p>	<p>耶和華的榮耀必然顯現；凡有血氣的必一同看見；因為這是耶和華親口說的。</p>

⁷Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

約翰對那出來要受他洗的眾人說：毒蛇的種類！誰指示你們逃避將來的忿怒呢？

⁸Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

你們要結出果子來，與悔改的心相稱。不要自己心裡說：有亞伯拉罕為我們的祖宗。我告訴你們，神能從這些石頭中，給亞伯拉罕興起子孫來。

9And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

現在斧子已經放在樹根上，凡不結好果子的樹就砍下來，丟在火裡。

10And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

眾人問他說：這樣，我們當作甚麼呢？

11He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

約翰回答說：有兩件衣裳的，就分給那沒有的；有食物的，也當這樣行。

12Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

又有稅吏來要受洗，問他說：夫子，我們當作甚麼呢？

13And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

約翰說：除了例定的數目，不要多取。

14And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

又有兵丁問他說：我們當作甚麼呢？約翰說：不要以強暴待人，也不要訛詐人，自己有錢糧就當知足。

15And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

百姓指望基督來的時候，人都心裡猜疑，或者約翰是基督。

16John 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:

約翰說：我是用水給你們施洗，但有一位能力比我更大的要來，我就是給他解鞋帶也不配。他要用聖靈與火給你們施洗。

17Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

他手裡拿著簸箕，要揚淨他的場，把麥子收在倉裡，把糠用不滅的火燒盡了。

18And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

約翰又用許多別的話勸百姓，向他們傳福音。

Wednesday: Matthew 3

¹In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

那時，有施洗的約翰出來，在猶太的曠野傳道，說：

²And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

天國近了，你們應當悔改！

Matthew 3:3	Isaiah 40:3
<p>³For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias (<i>Isaiah 40:3</i>), saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</p> <p>這人就是先知以賽亞所說的。他說：在曠野有人聲喊著說：預備主的道，修直他的路！</p>	<p>The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.</p> <p>有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路（或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路），在沙漠地修平我們神的道。</p>

⁴And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

這約翰身穿駱駝毛的衣服，腰束皮帶，吃的是蝗蟲、野蜜。

⁵Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

那時，耶路撒冷和猶太全地，並約但河一帶地方的人，都出去到約翰那裡，

⁶And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

承認他們的罪，在約但河裡受他的洗。

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

約翰看見許多法利賽人和撒都該人也來受洗，就對他們說：毒蛇的種類！誰指示你們逃避將來的忿怒呢？

⁸Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

你們要結出果子來，與悔改的心相稱。

⁹And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

不要自己心裡說：有亞伯拉罕為我們的祖宗。我告訴你們，神能從這些石頭中給亞伯拉罕興起子孫來。

¹⁰And 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.

現在斧子已經放在樹根上，凡不結好果子的樹就砍下來，丟在火裡。

¹¹I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

我是用水給你們施洗，叫你們悔改。但那在我以後來的，能力比我更大，我就是給他提鞋也不配。他要用聖靈與火給你們施洗。

12Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

他手裡拿著簸箕，要揚淨他的場，把麥子收在倉裡，把糠用不滅的火燒盡了。

13Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

當下耶穌從加利利來到約但河，見了約翰，要受他的洗。

14But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

約翰想要攔住他，說：我當受你的洗，你反倒上我這裡來麼？

15And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

耶穌回答說：你暫且許我，因為我們理當這樣盡諸般的義（或作：禮）。於是約翰許了他。

16And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

耶穌受了洗，隨即從水裡上來。天忽然為他開了，他就看見神的靈彷彿鴿子降下，落在他身上。

17And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

從天上有聲音說：這是我的愛子，我所喜悅的。

Thursday: Mark 1:1-11

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

神的兒子，耶穌基督福音的起頭。

Mark 1:2	Malachi 3:1
<p>²As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.</p> <p>正如先知以賽亞（有古卷無以賽亞三個字）書上記著說：看哪，我要差遣我的使者在你前面，預備道路。</p>	<p>Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.</p> <p>萬軍之耶和華說：我要差遣我的使者在我前面預備道路。你們所尋求的主必忽然進入他的殿；立約的使者，就是你們所仰慕的，快要來到。</p>

Mark 1:3	Isaiah 40:3
<p>³The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</p> <p>在曠野有人聲喊著說：預備主的道，修直他的路。</p>	<p>The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.</p> <p>有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路（或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路），在沙漠地修平我們神的道。</p>

⁴John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

照這話，約翰來了，在曠野施洗，傳悔改的洗禮，使罪得赦。

⁵And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

猶太全地和耶路撒冷的人都出去到約翰那裡，承認他們的罪，在約但河裡受他的洗。

⁶And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

約翰穿駱駝毛的衣服，腰束皮帶，吃的是蝗蟲、野蜜。

⁷And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

他傳道說：有一位在我以後來的，能力比我更大，我就是彎腰給他解鞋帶也是不配的。

⁸I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

我是用水給你們施洗，他卻要用聖靈給你們施洗。

⁹And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

那時，耶穌從加利利的拿撒勒來，在約但河裡受了約翰的洗。

10And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

他從水裡一上來，就看見天裂開了，聖靈彷彿鴿子，降在他身上。

11And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

又有聲音從天上來，說：你是我的愛子，我喜悅你。

Friday: John 1:19-34

19And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

約翰所作的見證記在下面：猶太人從耶路撒冷差祭司和利未人到約翰那裡，問他說：「你是誰？」

20And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

他就明說，並不隱瞞，明說：「我不是基督。」

21And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

他們又問他說：「這樣，你是誰呢？是以利亞嗎？」他說：「我不是。」「是那先知嗎？」他回答說：「不是。」

22Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

於是他們說：「你到底是誰，叫我們好回覆差我們來的人。你自己說，你是誰？」

John 1:23	Isaiah 40:3
<p>23He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias <i>(Isaiah 40:3)</i>.</p> <p>他說：「我就是那在曠野有人聲喊著說：『修直主的道路』，正如先知以賽亞所說的。」</p>	<p>The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.</p> <p>有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路（或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路），在沙漠地修平我們神的道。</p>

24And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

那些人是法利賽人差來的（或作：那差來的是法利賽人）；

25And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

他們就問他說：「你既不是基督，不是以利亞，也不是那先知，為甚麼施洗呢？」

26John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

約翰回答說：「我是用水施洗，但有一位站在你們中間，是你們不認識的，

27He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

就是那在我以後來的，我給他解鞋帶也不配。」

28These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

這是在約但河外伯大尼（有古卷：伯大巴喇），約翰施洗的地方作的見證。

29The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

次日，約翰看見耶穌來到他那裡，就說：「看哪，神的羔羊，除去（或譯：背負）世人罪孽的！」

30This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

這就是我曾說：『有一位在我以後來、反成了在我以前的，因他本來在我以前。』

31And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

我先前不認識他，如今我來用水施洗，為要叫他顯明給以色列人。」

32And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it **abode upon** him.

約翰又作見證說：「我曾看見聖靈，彷彿鴿子從天降下，住在他的身上。」

33And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and **remaining on** him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

我先前不認識他，只是那差我來用水施洗的、對我說：『你看見聖靈降下來，住在誰的身上，誰就是用聖靈施洗的。』

34And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

我看見了，就證明這是神的兒子。」

Saturday: **John 3:23-36; 5:33-35**

23And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

約翰在靠近撒冷的哀嫩也施洗；因為那裡水多，眾人都去受洗。

24For John was not yet cast into prison.

(那時約翰還沒有下在監計。)

25Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.

約翰的門徒和一個猶太人辯論潔淨的禮，

26And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

就來見約翰，說：「拉比，從前同你在約旦河外、你所見證的那位，現在施洗，眾人都往他那裡去了。」

27John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

約翰說：「若不是從天上賜的，人就不能得甚麼。」

28Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

我曾說：『我不是基督，是奉差遣在他前面的』，你們自己可以給我作見證。

29He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

娶新婦的就是新郎；新郎的朋友站著，聽見新郎的聲音就甚喜樂。故此，我這喜樂滿足了。

30He must increase, but I must decrease.

他必興旺，我必衰微。」

31He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

「從天上來的是在萬有之上；從地上來的是屬乎地，他所說的也是屬乎地。從天上來的是在萬有之上。」

32And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

他將所見所聞的見證出來，只是沒有人領受他的見證。

33He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

那領受他見證的，就印上印，證明神是真的。

34For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

神所差來的就說神的話，因為神賜聖靈給他是沒有限量的。

35The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

父愛子，已將萬有交在他手裡。

36He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

信子的人有永生；不信子的人得不著永生（原文作不得見永生），神的震怒常在他身上。」

5:33Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

你們曾差人到約翰那裡，他為真理作過見證。

34But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

其實，我所受的見證不是從人來的；然而，我說這些話，為要叫你們得救。

35He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

約翰是點著的明燈，你們情願暫時喜歡他的光。

Sunday: Acts 13:14-26

PAUL PREACHES IN ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA

14But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

他們離了別加往前行，來到彼西底的安提阿，在安息日進會堂坐下。

15And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

讀完了律法和先知的書，管會堂的，叫人過去，對他們說：二位兄台，若有甚麼勸勉眾人的話，請說。

16Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

保羅就站起來，舉手，說：以色列人和一切敬畏神的人，請聽。

17The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

這以色列民的神揀選了我們的祖宗，當民寄居埃及的時候抬舉他們，用大能的手領他們出來；

18And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

又在曠野容忍（或作：撫養）他們，約有四十年。

19And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

既滅了迦南地七族的人，就把那地分給他們為業；

20And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

此後給他們設立士師，約有四百五十年，直到先知撒母耳的時候。

21And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

後來他們求一個王，神就將便雅憫支派中基士的兒子掃羅，給他們作王四十年。

22And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

既廢了掃羅，就選立大衛作他們的王，又為他作見證說：我尋得耶西的兒子大衛，他是合我心意的人，凡事要遵行我的旨意。

23Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

從這人的後裔中，神已經照著所應許的，為以色列人立了一位救主，就是耶穌。

24When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

在他沒有出來以先，約翰向以色列眾民宣講悔改的洗禮。

²⁵And as John **fulfilled** his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.

約翰將行盡他的程途說：你們以為我是誰？我不是基督；只是有一位在我以後來的，我解他腳上的鞋帶也是不配的。

²⁶Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

弟兄們，亞伯拉罕的子孫和你們中間敬畏神的人哪，這救世的道是傳給我們的。

²⁷For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have **fulfilled** them in condemning him.

耶路撒冷居住的人和他們的官長，因為不認識基督，也不明白每安息日所讀眾先知的書，就把基督定了死罪，正應了先知的預言；

²⁸And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

雖然查不出他有當死的罪來，還是求彼拉多殺他；

²⁹And when they had **fulfilled** all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

既成就了經上指著他所記的一切話，就把他從木頭上取下來，放在墳墓裡。

³⁰But God raised him from the dead:

神卻叫他從死裡復活。

³¹And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

那從加利利同他上耶路撒冷的人多日看見他，這些人如今在民間是他的見證。

³²And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

我們也報好信息給你們，就是那應許祖宗的話，

Acts 13:33	Psalm 2:7
God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm (<i>Psalm 2:7</i>), Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. 神已經向我們這作兒女的應驗，叫耶穌復活了。正如詩篇第二篇上記著說：你是我的兒子，我今日生你。	I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 受膏者說：我要傳聖旨。耶和華曾對我說：你是我的兒子，我今日生你。

Acts 13:34	Isaiah 55:3
And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise (<i>Isaiah 55:3</i>), I will give you the sure mercies of David. 論到神叫他從死裡復活，不再歸於朽壞，就這	Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. 你們當就近我來；側耳而聽，就必得活。我必與你們立永約，就是應許大衛那可靠的恩典。

樣說：我必將所應許大衛那聖潔、可靠的恩典賜給你們。

Acts 13:35

Wherefore he saith also in another psalm (*Psalm 16:10*),
Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see
corruption.

又有一篇上說：你必不叫你的聖者見朽壞。

Psalm 16:10

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt
thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

因為你必不將我的靈魂撇在陰間，也不叫你的聖者見朽壞。

³⁶For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

大衛在世的時候遵行了神的旨意，就睡了（或作：大衛按神的旨意服事了他那一世的人，就睡了），歸到他祖宗那裡，已見朽壞；

³⁷But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

惟獨神所復活的，他並未見朽壞。

³⁸Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

所以，弟兄們，你們當曉得：赦罪的道是由這人傳給你們的。

³⁹And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

你們靠摩西的律法，在一切不得稱義的事上信靠這人，就都得稱義了。

⁴⁰Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets (*Habakkuk 1:5*);

所以，你們務要小心，免得先知書上所說的臨到你們。

Acts 13:41

Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I
work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no
wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

主說：你們這輕慢的人要觀看，要驚奇，要滅亡；因為在你們的時候，我行一件事，雖有人告訴你們，你們總是不信。

Habakkuk 1:5

Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and
wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your
days which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

耶和華說：你們要向列國中觀看，大大驚奇；因為在你們的時候，我行一件事，雖有人告訴你們，你們總是不信。

Isaiah 40:3-5	Matthew 3:3	Mark 1:3	Luke 3:4-6	John 1:23
<p><i>The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.</i></p> <p>有人聲喊著說：在曠野預備耶和華的路（或譯：在曠野，有人聲喊著說：當預備耶和華的路），在沙漠地修平我們神的道。</p> <p><i>4Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:</i></p> <p>一切山窪都要填滿，大小山岡都要削平；高高低低的要改為平坦，崎嶇嶇嶇的必成為平原。</p> <p><i>5And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.</i></p> <p>耶和華的榮耀必然顯現；凡有血氣的必一同看</p>	<p><i>3For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias (Isaiah 40:3), saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</i></p> <p>這人就是先知以賽亞所說的。他說：在曠野有人聲喊著說：預備主的道，修直他的路！</p>	<p><i>The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</i></p> <p>在曠野有人聲喊著說：預備主的道，修直他的路。</p>	<p><i>4As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet (Isaiah 40:3-5), saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</i></p> <p>正如先知以賽亞書上所記的話，說：在曠野有人聲喊著說：預備主的道，修直他的路！</p> <p><i>5Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;</i></p> <p>一切山窪都要填滿；大小山岡都要削平！彎彎曲曲的地方要改為正直；高高低低的道路要改為平坦！</p> <p><i>6And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.</i></p> <p>凡有血氣的，都要見神的救恩！</p>	<p><i>23He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias (Isaiah 40:3).</i></p> <p>他說：「我就是那在曠野有人聲喊著說：『修直主的道路』，正如先知以賽亞所說的。」</p>

見；因為這是耶 和華親口說的。				
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