

John The Baptist Was Elijah

'A voice of one who cries: "Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord. Make straight a way for our God in the desert ... and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed"' (Isaiah 40:3 & 5).

'Behold, I send My messenger and he shall prepare the way before Me.' ... 'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes, and he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse' (Malachi 3:1; 4:5 & 6).

Jesus told His disciples the prophecy in Malachi was fulfilled. Jesus said, "What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes I tell you but one much more than a prophet. This is the one of whom it was written, 'Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You'. Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist ... and from the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has endured violence and the violent (zealous believers) seize it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up until John, and if you are willing to receive it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 11:9 to 15). Then again the disciples asked Him, "Why do the scribes say Elijah must come first?" Jesus replied, "Elijah does come and will prepare everything, but I tell you Elijah has come already and they did not recognise him and did to him as they chose." ... Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them about John the Baptist' (Matthew 17:10 to 13).

'As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "Behold I send My messenger before Your face who will prepare Your way. A voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord"' (Mark 1:2 & 3). 'The disciples asked, "Why do the scribes say that it is necessary for Elijah to come first?" Jesus said to them, "Elijah, it is true, does come first to restore all things ... but I tell you Elijah has come and people did to him whatever they desired as it is written of him" (Mark 9:11 to 13).

'For he will be great in the sight of the Lord ... and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb; he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God and he will go before the Lord (Jesus) in the Spirit and Power of Elijah to turn back the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared in Spirit for the Lord' (Luke 1:15 to 17). "And listen! Your kinswoman (cousin or aunt) Elizabeth has conceived a son in her old age" ... 'and it happened when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby (the unborn John) leaped in her womb'. Elizabeth said, "Behold, the instant I heard your voice, the baby in my womb leapt for joy" (Luke 1:36, 41 & 44). "And you little one, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you shall go before the face of the Lord to make ready His ways, to bring the knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness and remission of their sins" (Luke 1:76 & 77). 'As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord and all mankind shall see the salvation of God"' (Luke 3:4 & 6). Jesus said, "What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes I tell you and far more than a prophet. This is the one of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face who will prepare Your way before You.' I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John" (Luke 7:26 to 28). Jesus said, "Until John came, there were the law and the prophets. Since then the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is being preached and everyone is forcing their way in (to heaven)" (Luke 16:16).

'There came a man sent from God whose name was John. This man came to witness that he might testify of the Light, so that all men might believe in it. He was not the Light himself but he came that he might testify about the Light' (John 1:6 to 8). John the Baptist said of himself, "I am the voice of one crying aloud in the wilderness; "Prepare the way of the Lord" as the prophet Isaiah said' (John 1:23). "I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent before Him to be His appointed messenger" (John 3:28).

The end of the Old Testament and the start of the New Testament speak of John the Baptist. He was a righteous and a holy man (Mark 6:20). Following the prophecies in Isaiah and Malachi, we have the fulfilment almost word for word spoken by Jesus and confirmed by John himself. John knew he was the specially anointed messenger sent by God the Father to prepare the way for Jesus the Son to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. These verses prove scripturally, that Elijah is not coming a third time and John the Baptist was the Elijah who was to come when he came in the same Spirit and Power Elijah had. John the Baptist said he was the one sent who was prophesied about, and Jesus said John was Elijah who was to come. It is Jesus who will come again, not Elijah. Jesus was careful to make those who did not believe it think again when he said, "If you are willing to receive it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." When people assume Elijah is coming again, then those people are not willing to accept the prophecy has been fulfilled, and they are not willing to accept the truth of the words of Jesus. When Jesus said John the Baptist was Elijah, then we have to believe it and stop looking for that prophecy to be fulfilled again.

Amen and God bless you.

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