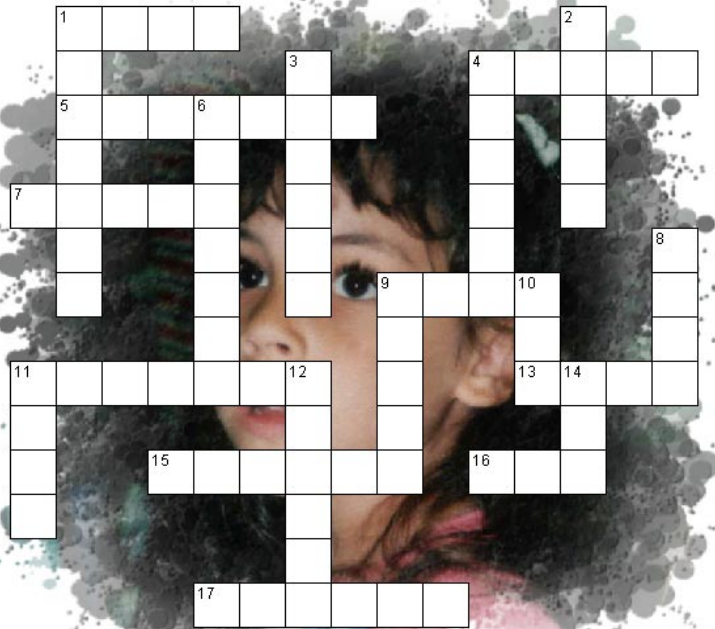


Crossword Puzzle

God's Calling in the New Testament

- Lesson One -

In the Gospels – John the Baptist



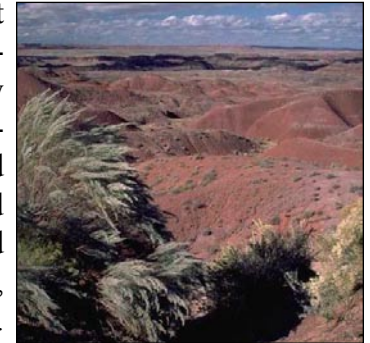
Across

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. John was _____, frank and filled... | 1. John the _____. |
| 4. John _____ God's word to them. | 2. John was born of _____ parents. |
| 5. God sent them a special _____. | 3. He cried out _____! |
| 7. He baptized in the Jordan _____. | 4. He actually showed people who the _____ was. |
| 9. John was _____ of godly parents. | 6. John was born of godly _____. |
| 11. John ate _____ and wild honey. | 8. John had a very _____ job to do. |
| 13. John spoke God's _____ to them. | 9. He was filled with the Spirit of God from his _____. |
| 15. _____ spoke of John much earlier. | 10. The _____ Testament. |
| 16. John was sent by _____. | 11. Behold the _____ of God. |
| 17. Other prophets spoke of Christ's coming in the _____. | 12. Filled with the _____ of God. |
| | 14. The _____ Testament. |

I. Overview.

The Bible has two great sections – the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells us about what God did before the coming of the Lord Jesus. It tells us how God called out a special people for Himself, for His salvation and purpose. These people were the children of Israel.



John the Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness - Prepare the way of the Lord.

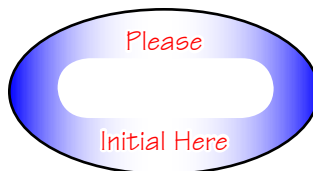
The New Testament mainly tells us what God did after the coming of the Lord Jesus. In the New Testament we see how God once again called out a people for Himself, for His salvation and purpose. God's people in the New Testament are the Christians, the church. The first person that God called in the New Testament was a man named John the Baptist. God needed someone very special for His purpose at the very beginning of the New Testament age. The hearts of God's people were turned away from Him. He needed someone to turn their hearts back to God.

II. Memory Verse.

“For this is he who was spoken of through Isaiah the prophet, saying, a voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.”

(Matt. 3:3)

Parent's Initials:



III. Lesson.

In order to prepare His people for the coming of their Savior, the Lord Jesus, God sent them a special prophet named John the Baptist. John spoke God's word to them and told them of their sins. He also told them of their need to repent, be baptized and believe in Christ. He was bold, frank, and filled with the Spirit of God.

John the Baptist's Parents and Birth

John was born of godly parents. His father served God as a priest in the temple. John's coming was so important that it was spoken of seven hundred years earlier by the prophet Isaiah. John was born in a miraculous way, since both of his parents were quite old. The Bible tells us that he was filled with the Spirit of God from his birth.

John the Baptist's Ministry

John had a very hard job to do. He had to turn the hearts of the people back to the Lord. That meant that John himself had to be fully turned to the Lord. John loved the Lord with all of his heart and lived absolutely for God. For this reason, he was different than other people.



John the Baptist told people to repent and be baptized.

He lived in the wilderness and ate locusts and wild honey. He probably seemed like a wild man to some. But to those who listened to him, he was the voice of God. He cried out in the wilderness, "Repent!", "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Those who repented, he baptized in the Jordan River.

The Greatest Prophet

The Lord Jesus Himself called John the Baptist the greatest of the prophets. All of the other prophets simply spoke of the coming of the Lord Jesus some time in the future. But John did not just speak of a coming Savior, he actually showed people who the Savior was. One time he pointed to Jesus and said "Behold the Lamb of God!" John was the first person that God called in the New Testament. As we will see in the remainder of these lessons, God continued to call many people to Himself and to His purpose. God is even calling us today. We need to be those whose hearts are fully turned to the Lord and who love Him as John did.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. Who was the first person called in the New Testament?

2. Who spoke of the coming of John the Baptist several hundred years before he was born?

3. What kind of person was John the Baptist?"

4. What did God need John to do for Him?

