Study 3

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

The Coming of the Kingdom ~ 2

Leader's Notes

Answers for study 3

a. Messiah

b. 'Anointed One'

PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE KING 3:1-12

a. John the Baptist

b. Isaiah 40:3

A. Who was John the Baptist?

What can we learn about John the Baptist from the following verses in Matthew? Matthew 3:1-12, 11:11-14, 17:10-13

- ✡ John's clothes were made of camel's hair and he wore a leather belt, which was like the clothing Elijah wore. In fact this was the kind of dress that marked a prophet.
- ✡ John's food was locusts and wild honey, which would have been the type of food available in the desert. It was also the food eaten by the poor. John chose not to live in luxury like the religious leaders, but rather to live simply.
- ✡ He is described by Isaiah as a 'voice'. John always pointed people to Jesus. He said later on, 'I must decrease and Jesus must increase.' Like John, we need to draw people to Jesus and not to ourselves.

B. Where did he preach?

- ✡ In the Desert of Judea according to Matthew 3:1. This is the area shaded in the map.

C. What was his message?

What were the main themes of John the Baptist's messages? Matthew 3:2, 7-12

Many different answers may be given for this question but here is a summary:-

- ✡ The coming of the Kingdom of God – this was in the person of Jesus. V2
- ✡ The coming of the Holy Spirit – Jesus would give the Spirit to those entering the Kingdom. V11
- ✡ The coming judgment – Jesus would be the judge. V10, 12

In order to enter the Kingdom of God and receive the Holy Spirit we need to REPENT. This was the central theme of John's preaching. Only when we repent will we escape the coming judgment. Repentance means:- to confess our sin, to publicly show our confession and to produce fruit that shows we have repented. This is still the way we enter the Kingdom of God – through repentance.

a. Malachi

b. Elijah

c. His return

d. Witnesses