

^{3.1} In those days, John the Baptizer arrived, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² saying,

“Change-your-thinking! For the Kingdom of the Heavens is at hand!”

³ For this man is the one spoken about through the prophet Isaiah, saying,

“A voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the Way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!’”

⁴ This same John had clothes made of camel’s hair and a skin belt around his waist. His food was insects and honey from the field. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the area around the Jordan River were journeying out to him. ⁶ They were being baptized in the Jordan River by him while confessing their selfish-actions. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,

“Offspring of venomous-snakes! Who showed you to flee from the approaching wrath? ⁸ Therefore, produce fruit worthy of a change-of-thinking! ⁹ Do not even think to say among yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father!’ For I am telling you that the Creator is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones! ¹⁰ For the axe is already lying at the root of the trees! Therefore, every tree not producing beautiful fruit is being cut down and thrown into the fire!

¹¹ I am baptizing you in water for a change-of-thinking, but the one coming after me is stronger than me! I am not even strong-enough to carry his sandals! He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire! ¹² The shovel is in his hand and he will thoroughly clean his floor! He will gather his wheat into the storehouse, but the straw he will burn up with an unstoppable fire!”

¹³ Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John hindered it, saying,

“I need to be baptized by you and you are coming to me?”

¹⁵ Answering, Jesus said to him,

“You must let go now. For it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness like this.”

Then John let him go. ¹⁶ While Jesus was being baptized, he immediately came up from the water. And look, the heavens were opened and he saw the Creator’s Spirit descending like a dove, coming upon him. ¹⁷ Then, look, a voice from the heavens was saying,

“This is my loved Son! I am pleased with him!”

^{4.1} Then Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tested by the Divider. ² After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was then hungry. ³ And after arriving, the Tester said to him,

“If you are the Son of the Creator, then speak so that these stones might become breads.”

⁴ But answering, Jesus said,

“It is written, ‘Man will not live on bread alone, but by every word coming out from the mouth of the Creator.’”

⁵ Then the Divider is taking Jesus into the holy city and stood him on the wing of the temple ⁶ and he is saying to him,

“If you are the Son of the Creator, then throw yourself down! For it is written, ‘He will command his messengers concerning you,’ and ‘with hands they will lift you up, so you never strike your foot with a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus said to him,

“Again, it is written, ‘You will not test the Lord your Creator.’”

⁸ Again, the Divider is taking Jesus to a very high mountain and is showing to him all the kingdoms of the cosmos and their glory ⁹ and he said to Jesus,

“I will give you all these things, if you fall-down and pledge-allegiance to me.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus is saying to him,

“Go away, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You will pledge-allegiance to the Lord your Creator and you will worship only him.*’”

¹¹ Then the Divider is letting go of Jesus and, look, messengers came and were serving him.

¹² After hearing that John was handed over, Jesus returned to Galilee. ¹³ And leaving behind Nazareth, he came to dwell in Capernaum by the sea in the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that the word through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled, saying,

¹⁵ “*Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan River, Galilee of the nations.* ¹⁶ *The people sitting in darkness saw a great light and a light sprung up upon those sitting in the region and the shadow of death.*”

¹⁷ From then, Jesus began to proclaim and say,

“Change-your-thinking! For the Kingdom of the Heavens is at hand!”

¹⁸ While walking alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon the one called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a fishing-net into the sea, for they were sea-fishermen. ¹⁹ And he is saying to them,

“Come, follow me! And I will make you sea-fishers for humans.”

²⁰ And immediately, after letting go of their nets, they followed him. ²¹ And going forward from there, he saw two other brothers, Jacob the son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, repairing their nets. Then he called them. ²² Immediately, after letting go of the boat and their father, they followed him.

²³ Then he went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every weakness among the people. ²⁴ The report about him came out into all of Syria and they brought to him all those having miseries—various diseases, oppressing torments, being demon-possessed, being mentally-ill, and paralyzed—and he healed them. ²⁵ Many crowds followed him from Galilee and the Ten-Cities and Jerusalem and Judea and beyond the Jordan River.