

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I would like you, please, to turn in your Bible to **Matthew, chapter 3**, where we read -

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

Wow! What a place to live! When you think of all the other places you could live, why the wilderness? John the Baptist was not raised in a wilderness, but who knows all the intricate parts of his personal story? We do know he had aged parents, and he knew the agony of them one day going Home to the Lord and he was without brother or sister. He was not understood, but he had been raised as a child with every Scripture to show that yes, that was his name in the book, for he was to be the forerunner of our Lord. **(Luke 1:17)**. John the Baptist had been called to give a special message and this was the message - **2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** He had a message, which was particular for his day. He was at the end of the old covenant and clasping the new covenant that was coming into being, as Christ Jesus was already born and ministering. He was a cousin, according to the flesh, in the family, but we know that Christ Jesus was different from John the Baptist, for Christ Jesus was the Son of God, spotless, pure and holy, and born of a virgin, as Scriptures over and over again emphasize.

The kingdom of heaven is very peculiar to **Matthew** and signifies the Messianic earth rule of Jesus Christ, the Son of David. The kingdom of heaven is because of the rule of Heaven over the earth. That is why it bears this peculiar name. **Daniel**, a very special Book which I love dearly, speaks of the kingdom which the God of heaven will

set up after the destruction of . . . **the stone cut out without hands (2:34)** of the Gentile world system. It was a kingdom covenanted to David's seed, described in the prophets, and confirmed Jesus the Christ, the Son of Mary through the angel Gabriel. All this was coming together as John preached saying, . . . ***the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 3:2).***

What happened? Did it come into being? We read, if you were listening yesterday, in **John 1 –**

11 He (Jesus) came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Although he came to share forth what would immediately happen, believing it could immediately happen, there was, in the timing of God, this period when there would be an opportunity for the Gentile world to receive the Lord, when the Church of Jesus Christ would be gathered in. In that timing, those who knew and loved God, who were Jews, waited and might have felt, “What happened, where did we fail?” Because they rejected the Lord, that time was laid aside, but their time is coming soon. Unfortunately, it is like the old message of John of the covenant, which speaks of difficulty. Our hearts break within us, for we realize the difficult day yet to fall upon His people, the Jews, but at the same time, we believe there will be those people who will come forth who will believe and proclaim the Lord, and in fact, at one point of these evil days coming on us, they will be the very heralders of the news of salvation around the world. **(Rev. 14:3).**

So, let us honor the fact that we have today to listen and accept the message to our own heart for it, for it says, ***Repent ye. . . (Matthew 3:2).*** I do not know if we understand what that means. It literally means there is a willingness to turn around and to see we

cannot create and be what we think should be the life pleasing to God. We are to turn and accept that which He says is necessary. We are to be willing to not only turn from our ways, but repent of them, and put right those things which must be put right. That might mean a phone call to somebody. That might mean a letter. Are you praying for the ones that you find you have difficulty getting along with? Do you understand that you are being a stooge for Satan to hurt and to feel and to be jealous of other people? Why don't you this day say to the Lord, *I want to repent. I want to see that the work of God is done by God alone. He picks up and chooses those He will to work through. But at the same time, I do not want any of those things that would bind me or hold my life - jealousies, reactions and feelings. I want to be clean in the hands of the Lord. I want to say, Yes, Lord, I do repent. I receive You in all Your cleansing, by the power of Your precious Blood.*

In Jesus' Name. Amen.