

SHIFTS HAPPENS, on to my NEXT SEASON

Week 1 -Day 1

Peter was an eyewitness to the life of Christ and was one of the 12 disciples. Mark who was an associate of the apostle Peter and although was not an eyewitness follower of Jesus accompanied the apostle Peter and heard his preaching. Mark wrote down Peter's teaching and was his interpreter. He enabled Peter's teachings to reach a wider audience by translating his Aramaic discourses into Greek or Latin. It is Mark's gospel that we will primarily use as our guide through this study. We will use other text to support our study of Peter's SHIFT!

Let us get started!

JOHN THE BAPTIST

- Read: Mark 1:1-3 (Isaiah testifies that a messenger would rise in Israel to prepare the way for the Messiah. As we look at several passages of scriptures we will find that God's Word will confirm John the Baptist as the one the prophets had been speaking of the one who would prepare the way for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Read: Mark 1:4-8
 1. According to verse 4, where was John baptizing and preaching?
 2. Look back at Mark 1:3. How is the messenger described?
- Read: Luke 1:5-17
 1. According to verse 17, the angel of the Lord indicated that John would go before the Lord in the "the spirit and power" of whom?
 2. What did that mean? Let us look at an incident involving the prophet Elijah that I believe reflects the spirit and power with which he served God. (Read 1 Kings 18:22-39)
 3. What effect did the fire appearing on the altar have on the people?
 4. Has there been a time when someone's commitments and faith (maybe your own) was rewarded by God in a way that made Him more real to you? Think about it and write it down.
 5. As we look at this text, we find that Elijah illustrates the futility of worshipping anyone other than the one, true God. According to verse 37 for what purpose did Elijah ask God to answer him?
 6. Another prophet named Malachi also made some prophecies about the messenger who would precede the coming Messiah. According to Malachi 3:1, what did the Lord say through the prophet?
 7. Now compare Malachi 4:5-6 and Luke 1:17. What similarities do you find?
- Read: Matthew 11:11-15 and 17:10-13.
 1. According to Jesus, who was John the Baptist?
- Many of the people did not recognize that John the Baptist was "the Elijah" prophesied to come before the Lord did. John wasn't Elijah reincarnated, but he came "in the spirit and power of Elijah," just as the angel had told John's father, Zechariah, he would.
- John lived in the desert, he prepared the way for the Lord, and, like Elijah, he served as a conscience for the people, calling on them to repent and return to God.
- Interestingly, John even looked like Elijah, read 2 Kings 1:8. Now look back at Mark 1:6.

Those looking for the return of Elijah should have recognized that John the Baptist was the long-awaited messenger, a "voice calling in the desert preparing the way for the Lord". Tomorrow we will tie John's story with that of Peter and how John played a part in Peter's very first encounter with His soon to be savior.