

INTRODUCTION: We have seen that Matthew's emphasis presents Jesus Christ as the King. We have studied His genealogy revealing His right to the Throne of David. We looked at His virgin conception and birth. We watched the Gentile Magi come from the East to worship Him. We observed God's providential hand of protection from the murderous plot of Herod against Him.

Approximately 30 years have passed since we saw Joseph and his family take up residence in Nazareth. The time has come for the presentation of the King to the nation but before this can take place there must be the fulfillment of one more O.T. prophecy - "***the voice of One crying in the wilderness...***" (Isaiah 40:3). The voice of prophecy had fallen silent for 400 years, and now suddenly, with startling abruptness, John the baptizer leaps into the arena fully grown and fully clothed with the armor of God - "***There was a man sent from God, whose name was JOHN.***" (John 1:6) - "***JOHN THE BAPTIST came preaching...***" (Matthew 3:1) - Jesus called him "***a burning and a shining light***" (John 5:35). Let us this morning glean from the life and ministry of this one of whom Jesus testified, "***...among them that are born of women there has not risen a greater than JOHN THE BAPTIST...***" (Matthew 11:11).

A. THE _____ OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

B. THE _____ OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

C. THE _____ OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

1. The plain truth concerning _____

2. The plain truth concerning _____

3. The plain truth concerning the _____

4. The plain truth concerning _____

5. The plain truth concerning _____

CONCLUSION: