



SCHEDULED FOR ARRIVAL

JUNE 17, 2024

MATTHEW 3:1-3 NKJV – (1) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **(2)** and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” **(3)** For this is He who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’”

John spells out what his baptism is for. He baptizes the willing with water as a sign of repentance. He is preparing the way, though, for someone who is far more powerful than himself who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John is describing the long-promised Messiah, who will bring God's kingdom to earth, but who will also bring judgment on those who are not faithful to God. He will separate them from Israel as the farmer separates the useful wheat from the useless chaff (**Matthew 3:11–12**). Then, suddenly, Jesus shows up.

JOHN 14:3 NKJV – (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Jesus continues to provide reassurance to His disciples (**John 14:1**). In literal terms, this verse contains a vague promise to return and bring these men to be where He is. He does not indicate that anyone will travel or arrive, but that He will be the One bringing them to the destination. This is especially interesting in that Jesus will also indicate that these men (Disciples) know "the way to" this place.

The combined effect of this encouragement is preparation to endure hardship. The disciples are about to experience several days of fear and loss (**John 20:19; Mark 14:27**), followed by the chaotic joy of Christ's resurrection (**Mark 16:6–8**). Afterwards, and continuing to today, those who follow Christ will be subject to persecution (**John 15:20**). Because of what Christ has done, and the fact that those trials are expected (**John 13:19; 16:4**), believers can hold to a firm trust in the promises of God.

He's scheduled for arrival. Get your ticket now!

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 TIMOTHY 5:11–13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: God is no fonder of intellectual slackers than He is of any other slacker.