



THE VISITOR

"Preparations for the Visit" John 1:6-8, 15

No. 4331

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For centuries, the prophets had promised and predicted the Incarnation. John the Baptist was the last in this distinguished line and he was an unerring pointer to Christ and His ministry. He "came as a witness" (v. 7) to prepare the people to welcome the Visitor.

I. The Visitor: "The True Light...Was Coming into the World." 1:9

- A. "In Him was life." 1:4a
 - 1. Life: "the organic functioning of plants, animals, and men."
 - 2. Life: the state of being, "get a life." Matthew 6:25; Mark 8:35
 - 3. Life: the abundant, eternal experience. John 10:10; 5:24
- B. "That was the light of men." 1:4b
 - 1. Light: that which illumines 1:9, reveals 3:19-20, guides. 8:12
 - 2. Light: the antithesis to darkness; banishes, triumphs. 1:5
 - 3. Light: available to, but not accepted by every man.

II. The Witness: "There Came a Man...Sent from God, His Name Was John." 1:6

- A. John's disciples: a rival group? See 3:25-26; Acts 18:25; 19:3
- B. John's "witness": a "lamp" to the "light." 5:35
- C. John's witness: a "friend" to the "Bridegroom." 3:27-30
- D. John's witness: a means to an end, "that men might believe."

III. The Message: "Prepare the Way for the Lord." Mark 1:3

- A. Pointing out a desperate situation: "a voice...in the desert."
- B. Pointing to a pressing need: "prepare the way for the Lord."
- C. Pointing away toward the Son: "one more powerful than I."
- D. Pointing out the way to prepare: "a baptism of repentance."
- E. Pointing towards future blessings: "forgiveness, Holy Spirit."

"Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light!" John 3:19