

## Scriptures – 12/12/2021

Luke 3:1 through Luke 3:18

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup> And all mankind will see God’s salvation.”<sup>£</sup>

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup>John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

<sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup>“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

<sup>14</sup>Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.<sup>£</sup> <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, “I baptize you with<sup>£</sup> water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup>And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

Zephaniah 3:14 through Zephaniah 3:20

- <sup>14</sup> Sing, O Daughter of Zion;  
shout aloud, O Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
O Daughter of Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.  
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.
- <sup>16</sup> On that day they will say to Jerusalem,  
“Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.
- <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
he is mighty to save.  
He will take great delight in you,  
he will quiet you with his love,  
he will rejoice over you with singing.”
- <sup>18</sup> “The sorrows for the appointed feasts  
I will remove from you;  
they are a burden and a reproach to you.<sup>£</sup>
- <sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal  
with all who oppressed you;  
I will rescue the lame  
and gather those who have been scattered.  
I will give them praise and honor  
in every land where they were put to shame.
- <sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you;  
at that time I will bring you home.  
I will give you honor and praise  
among all the peoples of the earth  
when I restore your fortunes<sup>£</sup>  
before your very eyes,”  
says the LORD.