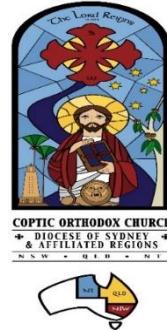


30 Baounah 1740AM
Sunday 7th of July 2024
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Bishop's Office



The Coptic Orthodox Church, See of Alexandria, Diocese of Sydney, and its Affiliated Regions. Sermon about: “John the Baptist and his mission”, at Saint Anthony and Saint Paul Coptic Orthodox Church, Guildford, Sydney, NSW, Australia, in the Divine Liturgy on Sunday 7th July 2024 from 8:15: am to 11:30 am.

A- John the Baptist in the Old and New Testament:

1. Isaiah the prophet mentioned John the Baptist in, *Isaiah 40:3* *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.*

2. The four writers of the Gospel mentioned John the Baptist as we read in:

Matthew 3:3 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.’”

Mark 1:3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’”

Luke 3:4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.

John 1:23 He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord,”’ as the prophet Isaiah said.

3. The sayings of the Archangel Gabriel about John the Baptist was mentioned in Luke 1:13-17*New King James Version (NKJV)*, ¹³*But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John .* ¹⁴*And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.* ¹⁵*For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.* ¹⁶*And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.* ¹⁷*He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’*

4. The sayings of Zachariah the Prophet the father of John about his son was mentioned in *Luke 1:76-79New King James Version (NKJV)*,

76 “*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

B- The Characteristics of John the Baptist:

5. The Characteristics of John the Baptist from the sayings of Archangel Gabriel and from the sayings of his father Zachariah the prophet:

5.1: He was the son of prayer. ¹³*But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.*

5.2: The Archangel Gabriel is the one who named him and you shall call his name John.

5.3: The birth of John the Baptist will be a cause of joy and gladness to his parents and many others. ¹⁴ *And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.*

5.4: John the Baptist will be great in the sight of the Lord. ¹⁵ *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord.*

5.5: John the Baptist will not drink neither wine nor strong drink and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink.

5.6: John the Baptist will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

5.7: John the Baptist will be the prophet of the Highest. 76 “*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;*

C- The Missions of John the Baptist:

6. The main mission of John the Baptist was mentioned in the book of St Matthew as we read in *Matthew 3:1-2New King James Version (NKJV)*, 3 *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!”*

7. The other missions of John the Baptist from the sayings of Archangel Michael and from the sayings of his father Zachariah:

7.1: John the Baptism will turn many of the Children of Israel to the Lord their God.

¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷

7.2: John the Baptist will have the power of Elijah the great prophet in his mission.

¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

7.3: John the Baptist will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways. For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

7.4: John the Baptist will give knowledge of salvation to the people of God. ⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people, By the remission of their sins, ⁷⁸ Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us".

7.5: John the Baptist will give light to those who sit in darkness. ⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,

7.6: John the Baptist will guide our feet into the way of peace. To guide our feet into the way of peace."

God bless us all through the intercession of saint John the Baptist.

Please pray for me.



+Bishop Daniel

With the Grace of God, Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church - Diocese of Sydney & its Affiliated Regions