

# A Burning and a Shining Light

by G.W. North

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*John's ministry was a call to repentance and a preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:1-3, Matthew 11:11, Mark 1:4, Luke 1:76-79, Luke 3:16, John 1:29, John 3:30, John 5:35, Acts 19:4

**Topics:** "Preparation for Christ", "The Role of John the Baptist"

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## Description

G.W. North emphasizes that John the Baptist was the final prophet of the Old Testament, heralding the Kingdom of Heaven and preparing the way for Jesus Christ. Although he prophesied about the coming of the Lamb of God, John did not comprehend the significance of the cross, focusing instead on his role as the forerunner of Christ. Filled with the Holy Spirit, John illuminated the darkness, guiding people towards the path of salvation. His baptism in water symbolized the spiritual transformation that Jesus would later bring through the Holy Spirit. John's faithful ministry exemplifies the importance of being a light in the world, preparing hearts for the coming of the Savior.

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## Transcript

In order to properly understand all this, we must grasp the fact that John was the last of a great line of Old Testament prophets who saw and spoke only in terms of the Kingdom of Heaven -- the reign of God on earth -- which he said was at hand. Although he prophesied of the Lord Jesus as the Lamb of God, and foreshadowed the introduction of the great age of grace, he never saw or understood the cross; he was the herald of the King, His forerunner and friend.

Being filled with the Spirit, John burned and shone in the cold dark to warm men and light them into the highway he was commissioned to prepare for the coming of the Son of God. It was a task of great magnitude, but he faithfully accomplished it.

Immersing his converts in the tangible element of water, John symbolised to them what the King should later do to their spirits in the eternal Spirit of God.

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