

# Welcome to 2016!

“Prepare the way for the Lord,  
Make straight paths for Him!”

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

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

*Matthew 3.1-3*





Not the road for us to travel to God, but ...

the road for Him to travel to us!

*What is the Lord God going to do when He shows up?*

*You want to be on the right side when God shows up.*

*When God shows up, He's going to make things right –  
and that means,*

*healing or getting rid of things that are wrong!*

*“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire!”*

“The Exile is over! God’s coming back to us!”

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts – I will be their God and they will be my people – they will all know me.”  
- *Jeremiah 31*

‘For I will take you out of the nations. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness.’ - *Ezekiel 36*



“I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD.” - *Ezekiel 39*

“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD. “My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever,” says the LORD. - *Isaiah 59*

*Jesus was baptized by John: receives the Spirit*

*Being baptized in water is what we do:*

*baptizing us in the Spirit is what God does*

*Forgiveness of sins clears our lives*

*for the work of the Holy Spirit to make things new*

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit: and fire!”

“Winnowing ... removing chaff, saving the wheat”





# Making the way for the Lord

Welcome the Holy Spirit and blessing

Welcome the fire and cleansing

The goal: saving the best, removing the rest

