

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

(Paihia Family Church - 5/8/90 - EKB)

Reading: *Is 40:1-5, Mk 1:1-5.*

1. Each generation of believers is responsible to **prepare the way of the Lord** so that His **glory maybe revealed** to all flesh and His harvest gathered in, *Is 40:9-11*.
2. **God sent John the Baptist** to prepare the way for the appearing of the Lord Jesus, *Lk 3:1-6, Jn 1:31*, and the revealing of God's glory through Him. There was a great harvest of souls gathered in. *Jn 4:35,39,41, Ac 9:35,42, Jn 10:42, 11:45, 12:11, Ac 2:41, 4:4.*
3. **The way of the Lord is the way of holiness** as it is written in *Is 35:8*, and so as John preached, it requires repentance and confession of sin. Without holiness no-one will see the Lord, *Heb12:14, Mat 5:8*. The highway of the Lord has to be prepared in our hearts and lives.
4. **Every valley shall be exalted**, *Is 40:4*. Part of our preparation is the removal from our lives of uncertainty, fears, anxiety, doubt, unbelief, insecurity, inferiority, rejection, feelings of inability. We need a bold, confident trust in God and His Word, and we need to be free from these negative hindrances. "God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind". *2Tim 1:7, See also Pro 14:26, Pro 28:1, Ac 4:13, Phil 4:13, 1Jn 4:18, Mat 10:20.*
5. **"The mountains and the hills shall be made low"**. The Lord is looking for a people walking in humility and serving one another in love. *Mic 6:8, Is 66:1,2, Gal 5:13, Phil 2:7, Jn 13:1-14, Rom 12:3.*
God knows the proud afar off, *Ps 138:6.*
God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, *1Pet 5:5,6*. Everyone who exalts himself shall be abased, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted, *Lk 18:9-14.*
So repentance is necessary wherever there is a lifting up of self and pride, a despising of others, critical attitudes, condemnation of fellow believers, unforgiveness, harshness, self dependence, self love, self will against God's will.
6. **The crooked places shall be made straight**. "Crooked places" indicate a lack of the truth of God's Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit. As we soak ourselves in God's Word and seek His Spirit, *Jn 17:17, Jn 16:13*, we are delivered from the "crooked" lies of satan and man's ideas, from new age teaching and other deceptions. God's Word of truth must be central, *Jn 8:31,32*. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, *2Tim 2:15.*
1Tim 4:1-5, Is 30:21, Heb 12:13, Ezk 1:9,12, Pro 4:25, Ps 119:11, Ps 119:105.
7. **The rough places smooth**, *Is 40:4*. "Rough" places are where there are broken relationships and the works of the flesh amongst God's people. Where there is a lack of love in relationships, a lack of holiness and confidence in one another there are rough places that need smoothing out. Jesus said, "if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift,"

Mat 5:24. Forgive others now, *Mk 11:25*. Divisions, upsets, evil speaking, jealousies, unforgivenesses, together with the sinful works of the flesh as mentioned in *Gal 5:19-21*, *Rom 1:29-31*, have to be repented of and removed, *1Jn 1:9*, *Pro 1:23*, *Heb 12:14*.

8. The glory and the presence of God will not be revealed until we prepare the way of the Lord. **Four essential attitudes are:**

- a. **Faith** a sure confident trust in God and His Word.
- b. **Humility** expressed through loving service to one another.
- c. **Truth** believing and speaking what God says in His Word.
- d. **Love** in our relationships to fellow believers and in our walk of obedience and holiness before God.

9. **It is now time** for the fulfilment of *2Chr 7:14*.

“If My people who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.”

10. The Lord has encouraged us all many times that revival is approaching rapidly. He has spoken clearly from many scriptures including these:-

Ps 50: 1-3

Is 63:4

Ps 102:13

Is 65:1

Mal 3:1

Zech 2:10,13

Is 29:14,17-21

Is 35:3-8

He is coming

Very many times God has also given visions of the coming revival, during times of intercession by various groups and individuals. (see No 55)

11. *Dan 9:1-19*. When Daniel knew through God’s Word, that the prophecy of the Lord was about to be fulfilled, he did not sit back and wait for it to happen, but rather, he “set his face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.” He prayed, confessed his sins and the sins of God’s people, cried to God for mercy, and interceded for the people of God, that God would come and fulfil His purposes.

12. **Will you rise up and prepare the way of the Lord, NOW**, and pray and intercede that the Lord will come in His glory and power, to revive His church and gather in the Harvest of Souls which Christ has paid for with His own Blood?