

“Preparing the way” by Jeremiah.

Today, I would like to give a message about preparing the way.

This means that we have to prepare the way before the Lord returns and correct the wrong doctrines.

<John the Baptist prepared the way for Lord>

As you read in the New Testament, there is a scripture about John the Baptist who came before Jesus and prepared the way for Him as below.

Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

This was prophesied by Isaiah in advance as below, too.

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

40:5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

<Why do we need to prepare the way?>

A simple question is why we need to make way for the Lord. The answer is not that difficult. It is because the road is not flat and smooth. As it says **“Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain,”** there are needs to do what is written here.

<The road to the truth of God wasn't straight>

So, Matthew and Isaiah talk about preparing the way for Lord, but what is the road anyway? Of course, it is not an ordinary road like Route 66. John the Baptist didn't do the road work. What is talked about here is as below:

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

When Lord was about to come to the earth, the truth of God was twisted and John the Baptist pointed it out. Lord also pointed this out as below.

Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

These hypocrites twisted the way to the truth and distracted the people who were to enter the kingdom of heaven. When the Lord said "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in" , He clearly criticized what they were doing. John also criticized those who were twisting the way in Matthew 3:7-10.

<The Bible tells us that if we are baring fruits, even Christians will invite the wrath of God>

Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Here, John accused Pharisees and Sadducees who were supposed to be the people of God and serving God, saying that they are a generation of vipers.

We can see that the vipers twist the word of God like the snake in the Garden of Eden. John also described that if they do so, they will definitely experience the wrath of God. This could perhaps indicate that regardless of who you are, as long as you are twisting the word of God easily, you are unable to escape the wrath of God.

It is the same in the New Testament, which means that the people who preach wrong doctrines such as Pre-tribulation rapture theory. We shouldn't, however, forget that there is great news amongst Christian churches; once you become Christian, you don't have to face the judgment or eternal death.

These teachings are different from "who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Surely, the people of God will, of course, face the wrath of God if they commit sins the Bible talks about. Let take a further look.

Matthew 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Here, John talked to the people who thought they would not face the wrath of God since they are the chosen people that it is not good enough to escape the wrath of God. Instead, he insisted that "the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire." This is a parable and also a warning towards Christians in the New Testament era. We (as Christians in the New Testament era) are also like Israelis and the descendants of Abraham.



John the Baptist

What this scripture warns us about is that Christians shouldn't think they are not excluded from salvation and free from judgment. We need to be aware that what we ought to do is to bear good fruits.

<John the Baptist is Elijah in End Times>

As you have read, John the Baptist gave people warnings when the Lord came to the earth. Lord described him as Elias who is to come.

Matthew 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was about to come.

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

These scriptures explain that people need to repent before the Lord. Although John the Baptist encouraged people to repent, not everyone did. In particular, Pharisees and rabbis refused to repent while John eventually lost his life. They continued their sins and finally arrested Jesus the Son of God to kill. As a result, the wrath of God came upon them and Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome in A.D. 70, I suppose some may say.

As you can see, what we learn from the story of John the Baptist is that despite his warnings, people didn't repent to correct their walk of life and got destroyed in the end. The same thing may happen in End Times.

<Elias will return before Jesus does>

By the way, the story of John the Baptist and the prophecy of Elias' return were not completed when Jesus came to the earth. Instead, it will be fulfilled in End Times. As Malachi says **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord;** the dreadful day is when the prophecy gets fulfilled. This is explained in Revelation as below.

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man hurts them, he must in this manner be killed.

The two prophets we see here have characteristics of Elias. Therefore, they will be like John the Baptist in End Times who will give warnings and prophecy. However, they will also lose their lives as it is prophesied in Revelation.

<Road needs to be prepared in End Times as well>

Why is there going to be Elias in End Times again? That is exactly why John the Baptist appeared when the Lord came to the earth; the road is not prepared and not in the state as it is supposed to be. There is a reason why a fire engine runs with the siren on. There is a fire somewhere. Elias will come because the road is unprepared. The people who are twisting the road are pastors, teachers, leaders, and Bible scholars, who are just like Pharisees in the Old Testament era.

<Otherwise there is no need for Elias to come >

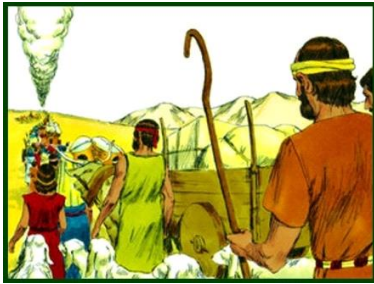
We need to know that there are many incorrect teachings and twisted roads. That is why Elias is meant to come back to the earth to rebuild doctrines and the way. Just like a doctor is not needed when there is no one sick, Elias doesn't need to come in End Times if nothing is wrong. However, it was prophesized, and there is a good reason why Elias will come.

You may not want to accept this and rightly so, but the doctrine of some churches are non-biblical in some parts. Some people believe that just because you call yourself a Christian doesn't mean you receive salvation regardless. They may refer to 1 Corinthians 10:1-6 where most parts of exiled people were destroyed in the desert after consuming spiritual food and drink. This could be interpreted as Christians in the New Testament era and could be destroyed depending on their walk of life.

1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things were our examples, with the intention of not being lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

We need to know that Christians don't necessarily avoid destruction as the Bible suggests.

Amen



People in the dessert are like Christians in the New Testament era.

Knowing the era “Halloween: Difference between Holy and worldly” by H.F

Lord tells us to know the era. What kind of era is it now?

It is fair to say that we are in the era when many magic and fortune are being revealed in the society. Harry Potter is popular among all generation and so are cultic games, for example. There were many Halloween events in Japan, and 70% of Americans are said to participate in Halloween event.

Halloween has become popular in Japan in early 1900's, and there are many costume parades and events these days, making it very commercialized. You may have seen various decorations of orange pumpkin in shops, or children dressed up and asking for sweets. Young people dress up as zombies or skeletons in Shibuya, Tokyo to enjoy this Halloween event.

Halloween is originated from the festival of Celtic people and used to be called Samhain. This festival was adopted to Christianity by Pope Gregory I, and it became All Saints Day/All Hallows Day.

Ancient Celtic people believed that when they held Samhain festival, the curtain between the spiritual world and real world will be raised so that we get to interact with the spirit of the dead people. This was also a festival to celebrate the king of death and Satan of darkness. People gave human/children sacrifices, and it was horrible. This terrible festival is the origin of Halloween, which is to praise Satan and it is spiritually

dangerous. This is still being continued right now with many people seeing Halloween as an important day to worship Satan. Johanna Michelson, a famous author in a cult, published a warning article on Lighthouse Trail website. She also said that "Since 1951, Magic Control Law has been abolished, which has caused many witches and magicians to become popular again, and they are making an influence on children around the world through internet and SNS." There are many witches and magicians in this era as well, so joining Halloween actually means taking part in Satan's meeting. Although Halloween was banned in the U.S in the early days as it could influence people, it is recognized as a fun event in the country right now.

Now, how do Christian churches see Halloween right now? Do they recognize that bad spiritual influence could be made on people?

Chine McDonald, World Vision's Christianity Engagement chief officer, said in an article called "The reason why churches should bring Halloween back" in Christian Today that they are going to use Halloween to share the gospel. They are going to use a pumpkin character called "Pumpkin Heroes" but what they are doing is sharing the gospel even by using a satanic stuff.

In Christian Today (Japanese October 31st edition), there is an article about how to handle Halloween. A person asked if Christians are OK to celebrate Halloween, and a famous pastor in Japan answered as below.

"Halloween originates from a foreign religion, and it is a well-known event in the U.S now. Some are against it as it is dangerous, while others have no problems with it, therefore regardless of how you answer, you will get criticized."

He also mentioned "the third way" as an option. In this view, people are recommended to see issues like Halloween to be in "Grey Zone" therefore encouraged to judge their nature themselves. Basically, if you think it is sinful, you shouldn't be involved otherwise there is no problem taking part. It seems reasonable to leave individual for making the decisions based on their faith levels, but the problem is why Halloween is seen to be in Grey Zone, not the main issue that Paul mentioned in Romans 14.

1 Corinthians 10:20-21 20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be

partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Halloween has to be the main issue which is connected to worshipping Satan. It is definitely not in "Grey Zone." It is obvious that it is not a good idea to leave the judgment to each individual if its danger is recognized.

Ezekiel 22:26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hidden their eyes from my Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

This scripture tells us that priests didn't teach God's law properly at the time. Teachers couldn't separate holy from unholy. They didn't fulfill the responsibility as teachers, and God's wrath came upon them.

Can we just say that this is only a thing of past? Isn't it true that this is still happening right now?

Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

We need to know what era we are in now.



Halloween is a satanic festival.