

35. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (13) – In the Fulfillment of the OT Prophecies

N13. The Lord before Whom **Elijah Came to Prepare His Way**

Hymns: A lover of Christ / #1105 / #5

✝ “ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED ...” (2Tim. 3:16)

[OT prophecy]

Mal. 4:5 - I am about to **send Elijah** the prophet to you before the great and terrible **day of Jehovah** comes;

Mal. 4:6 - And he will **turn the heart** of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a curse.

[NT fulfilment]

Luke 1:17 - And *it is* he *who* will 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 prudence of the righteous, **to prepare** for the **Lord** a people made ready.

Matt. 3:3 - For this is he who was spoken of through **Isaiah** the prophet, saying,
“A voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Prepare the way** of the **Lord**; **make straight His paths.**”

Matt. 17:10 - And the disciples asked Him, saying, Why then do the scribes say that **Elijah must come first**?

Matt. 17:11 - And He answered and said, **Elijah** indeed is coming and **will restore all things**;

Matt. 17:12 - But I say to you that **Elijah** has **already come**; and they did not recognize him, but did with him the things they wished. So also the **Son of Man** is about to suffer by them.

Matt. 17:13 - Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them concerning **John the Baptist**.

Matt. 11:14 - And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is **Elijah**, who is to come.

✝ “... COME TO THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.” (1Tim. 2:4)

❖ The Lord before whom **Elijah came to prepare His way**

- The **prophecy** in Mal. 4:5-6, that **Elijah** the prophet would come to turn our hearts

[Partial fulfillment]

- The word in Malachi 4:5-6 was **fulfilled** in Luke 1:17; Matt. 3:1-3
 - In Luke 1:17, **when John the Baptist** was **conceived**, it was said that he would **go before** the **Lord** in the **spirit and power of Elijah**.
 - **Hence**, in Matt 11:14, “*Elijah, who is about to come*” points to **John the Baptist**.
 - **According** to Matthew 3:3, **John the Baptist** was sent—
 - **to prepare** the **way** of the Lord,
 - **to make** His **paths** straight
 - **to change** the mind of the people,
 - **to turn** their mind to the Lord and
 - **to make** their heart right,
 - **to cause** every part and avenue of their heart to be straightened by the Lord through repentance for the kingdom (Luke 1:16-17)
 - In Matthew 17:12-13 the Lord says “*But I say to you that **Elijah already came**, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the **Son of Man** is about to suffer by them.*”
 - John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:13-17)
 - he was **rejected** (Matt. 11:18) and **beheaded** (Matt. 14:3-12)

[Complete fulfillment]

- In Matthew 17:11 the Lord said, “***Elijah indeed is coming and will restore all things.***”
 - this will be **fulfilled** at the **time of the great tribulation**, when **Elijah** will be one of the **two witnesses** (Rev. 11:3-4)
 - **on the one hand**, **Elijah has come**; John the Baptist (in the spirit and power of **Elijah**)
 - **on the other hand**, **he has not yet come in full**; the full coming of **Elijah** will take place in the future

✦ “FOR YOU CAN ALL PROPHECY ONE BY ONE ...” (1 Cor. 14:31)

- ✦ In His ministry **Christ** was the One before whom Elijah came to prepare His way. **John the Baptist** prepared the way so that **Christ** could come **to dispense God** into all those who would be **called** by Him.
- ✦ The **way**, and the **paths**, in Matt 3:3 are a portrait of our **heart** with all its parts.
 - ✓ to **prepare the way** of the Lord is to **repent** unto the Lord with our whole being and with our whole heart and to **let the Lord come in**
 - ✓ to **prepare the way** of the Lord and **make His paths straight** is to **allow the Lord** to occupy every part of our heart, including the mind, the emotion, and the will.
- ✦ **To** prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths straight is **to** change our mind, **to** turn our mind toward the Lord and make our heart right, that through repentance every part and avenue of our heart may be straightened by the Lord for the kingdom of the heavens.

*{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 35, letter N – point 13; footnotes Matt. 3:3)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}*

A lover of Christ	Hymn 1105	Hymn 5
<p>1 A lover of Christ should be one Who’s attracted by His love And drawn by His sweetness To pursue after Him, pursue after Him, Pursue Him for full satisfaction.</p> <p>2 A lover of Christ should be one Who is called by Him To be delivered From the self through His oneness With the cross, with the cross of Christ.</p> <p>3 A lover of Christ should be one Who is called by Him to live in ascension As the new creation, creation of God, In the resurrection of Christ.</p> <p>4 A lover of Christ should be one Who’s called by Him more strongly to live within The veil, thru His cross after the lover’s Experience of His resurrection.</p>	<p>1 Lo, the table spread before us With the bread and with the wine: Lo, the Savior waiting for us, Bidding us to come and dine. “Come and dine,” the Lord is calling, “Sup with Me and I with thee” He’s prepared for us this table— Let us feast abundantly.</p> <p>2 We are feasting with our Savior, He with us and we with Him; Hallelujah, hallelujah! Feast of feasts that ne’er will end! Eating, drinking with Thyself, Lord, We are wholly satisfied. Taste we of that glorious banquet Thou wilt share with us, Thy Bride.</p>	<p>1 God, our Father, we adore Thee! We, Thy children, bless Thy Name! Chosen in the Christ before Thee, We are “holy without blame.” We adore Thee! we adore Thee! Abba’s praises we proclaim! We adore Thee! we adore Thee! Abba’s praises we proclaim!</p> <p>2 Son Eternal, we adore Thee! Lamb upon the throne on high! Lamb of God, we bow before Thee, Thou hast brought Thy people nigh! We adore Thee! we adore Thee! Son of God, Who came to die! We adore Thee! we adore Thee! Son of God, Who came to die!</p> <p>3 Father, Son and Holy Spirit— Three in One! we give Thee praise! For the riches we inherit, Heart and voice to Thee we raise! We adore Thee! we adore Thee! Thee we bless, through endless days! We adore Thee! we adore Thee! Thee we bless, through endless days!</p>