

# OPENING ACT

## THE JOURNEY OF JESUS, PART 1

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Pastor Ken Ritz \* Sept 30, 2018 \* New Life Vineyard Church

*... handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses...*

*Since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I decided to write an orderly account... Luke 1:2*

*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. Luke 3:1-3*

*People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. Matthew 3:5-6*

*He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. John 1:7-8*

*John (the Baptist) testified concerning him (Jesus). He cried out saying, "This is the one that I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me... The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ..."*

*Now, this was John's testimony. When the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." John 1:15,17,19*

*They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."*

*"Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."*

*Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"*

*"...I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"*

*Now the Pharisees, who had been sent, questioned him, "Why do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"*

*"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." John 1:21-27*

*What is he really saying?*

**Something greater than the temple is coming**

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"*

*...The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire ...*

*After me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry... His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matthew 3:7-12*

*What is he really saying?*

**The days of compassionless, loophole religion are ending**

*This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

*John 1:28-2:1*

**Jesus came to establish:**

**a new Covenant**

**a new Command**

**a new Movement**