

Exposition of Matthew
The Voice Crying in the Wilderness
(Matt. 3:1-12)

I. John's Preaching (1-2)

A. In those days John the Baptist arrived

B. Preaching in the wilderness of Judea
The wilderness -

C. Saying, Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand

“Here is no rabbi, reasoning and giving options; here is no priest, leading ritual; here is no scribe, prescribing adherence to a set of rules. John speaks with a thunderous voice, demanding a new relationship with God”
(Grant Osborne, 110)

II. OT Fulfillment (3)

A. For this the one spoken of by Isaiah the Prophet

B. Isa. 40:3

III. John's Prophetic Tradition and Popularity (4-6)

A. Clothing and diet (4)

B. Popularity and baptism (5-6)

IV. John and the Jewish Leaders (7-10)

A. The Pharisees and Sadducees (7a)

B. Brood of vipers (7b)

Brood of vipers (children/offspring of vipers)

“Carries the insult further... Matthew may allude to the fairly widespread ancient view that vipers were mother killers... Calling his hearers vipers may have been an insult, but calling them ‘offspring of vipers’ accused them killing their own mothers, indicating the utmost moral depravity” (Craig Keener, 122-123).

C. Do fruit worthy of repentance (8)

D. Don’t trust in Father Abraham (9)

E. The ax is laid at the root (10)

V. **John’s Witness to the Stronger One (11-12)**

A. John’s baptism (11a)

B. Messiah’s baptism (11b-12)

Conclusion and Application