

PREAPRE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 40:3-5 (NKJV)

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low;
The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth;
The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

This passage is a prophetic announcement of Messiah's coming, who would appear on the scene some 400 years later. This same cry to "prepare the way" is echoed by John the Baptist in the Gospels.

Luke 3:2-6 NASB

. . . the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³ And he came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"THE VOICE OF ONE CALLING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS,

'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,

MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!

⁵ EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED,

AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE LOWERED;

THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT,

AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH;

⁶ AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD!"

John was a forerunner of Jesus. His message is one of repentance and preparation for Christ's coming. He does this by calling the people to repent and be baptized.

- Repentance means to change our mind and to agree with God. Metanoia – Greek word meaning "to change the mind."
- Baptism is a symbol showing death to the past, and being raised to a new life for the future.

Every valley shall be exalted - Unbelief

A valley represents places of unbelief. Unbelief can manifest in feelings of self-hatred, self-pity, insecurity, guilt & inferiority.

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will also help you, I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand.' Isaiah 41:10

These valleys exist because we haven't fully embraced our identity as sons and daughters of the Almighty.

*And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughter to Me," says the Lord Almighty.
2 Corinthians 6:18*

And every mountain and hill brought low; - Pride

Mountains and hills represent places of pride. Pride can manifest in attitudes of superiority, criticism, unteachableness & conceit.

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. James 4:6 / 1 Peter 5:5

Philippians 2 - We follow the model of Jesus, who although He is God, humbles himself to bring salvation to man through death on the cross.

The crooked places shall be made straight – Sin Patterns

God calls us to live a life of transparent honesty with Him and with others in the body of Christ that conceals nothing. God's prescription for hidden sin is to bring it into the light.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much.

James 5:16

He does not want one crooked place to remain in our lives, for it will become a dangerous turn in God's freeway."

And the rough places plain

God builds our lives together as a highway. It is in being rightly related and mutually submitted to one another in the body of Christ, that we can grow up into Christ.

As iron sharpens iron, So one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ, Ephesians 4:15

The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken

God has declared that "a way" must be prepared that will enable people to get to God and also allow God's glory to travel out to mankind in general.

"God's freeway is to be built in the lives of believers. God desires to prepare you and me as a roadway that will lead from earth to heaven, from the natural to the spiritual; from the worship of man to the worship of God: and from our glory to God's glory." Judson Cornwall