

# Treasure Hunt

- Who is the true ancestor of the “generation of vipers”?
- What motive does John give people to repent?
- How can we tell if our repentance is true?
- What will God do to people who only pretend to repent?
- What was Jesus’ relation to John before Jesus’ own ministry began?

# Serpents and Abraham

	<b>Matt 3</b>	<b>John 8</b>
True ancestry	v. 7 generation of vipers	v. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. v. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.
Claimed ancestry	v. 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father:	v. 33 We be Abraham's seed v. 39 Abraham is our father. v. 41 we have one Father, even God

# v. 7, Flee from the Wrath to Come

Paul's summary of the kingdom:

Act 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to **repent**: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will **judge** the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained;

Isaiah's principle:

Isa 26:9 when thy judgments *are* in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Noah's example:

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

# Fruitfulness and Ancestry

Need for Fruit	8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:	therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
Inadequacy of Descent	9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to <i>our</i> father:	10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees:
True Source of Life	for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.	

# v. 8, Fruits Meet for Repentance

Isaiah:

Isa 5:1 My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. ... 5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: ... 6 ... **I will lay it waste**: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: ...

The Lord Jesus:

Joh 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit **he taketh away**: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Paul:

Act 26:19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: 20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should **repent** and turn to God, and **do works** meet for repentance.

# v. 9, Children from Stones

Isa 51:1 Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock *whence* ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit *whence* ye are digged. 2 Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah *that* bare you:

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

# v. 10, the Heavenly Lumberjack

Assyria against the nations of the Levant:

Isa 10:15 Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? *or* shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake *itself* against them that lift it up, *or* as if the staff should lift up *itself*, *as if it were* no wood.

Against Assyria:

Isa 10:33 Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature *shall be* hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled. 34 And he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one.

Against Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon:

Dan 4:10 I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof *was* great. ... 13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; 14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:

# He that cometh after οπισω me

Οπισω is overwhelmingly spatial (temporal “after” is μετα with accusative)

Examples:

Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Mat 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.



# Three Men Named “Jesus”

	<b>Joshua</b>	<b>Elisha</b>	<b>Our Lord</b>
Name	Jehovah is Salvation	God is Salvation	Jehovah is Salvation
Forerunner and Teacher	Moses	Elijah	John
Marked by the Spirit	Num 27:8 Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit,	2Ki 2:15 they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha.	Matt 3:16 and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him

# Similarities between John and Jesus

	<b>John</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
Itinerants	Matt 3:1; John 1:28; 3:23	Matt 9:35
Disciple-makers	Matt 11:2; John 1:35; 3:25	Matt 5:1; 10:1-4
Same message	Matt 3:2	Matt 4:17
Baptism	Matt 3:6	John 3:22
Abrahamic vs. Satanic parentage	Matt 3:7-9	John 8:33-44
Rejection of Pharisee- Sadducee division	Matt 3:7	John 3:1-3
Judgment on fruitless vines	Matt 3:10	John 15:2