

VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

ISAIAH 40: 3-5



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*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 God's coming salvation and the preparation required to receive Him.

In Matthew 3:1-3, Mark 1:2-4, Luke 3:3-6, and John 1:23, John is identified as the voice crying in the wilderness, preparing the way for the Lord. John preached repentance, baptized in the Jordan River, and called the people to moral and spiritual preparation for the Messiah's arrival. The leveling of mountains and valleys finds its expression in John's call for repentance that humbles the proud, lifts the brokenhearted, and aligns humanity with God's redemptive purposes.

Jesus' ministry, particularly in His teaching, miracles, and sacrificial work, levels the spiritual terrain, offering reconciliation with God to all people, both Jew and Gentile. His atoning work on the cross establishes the ultimate fulfillment of preparation for salvation: sin and death are 'leveled', and humanity is made ready to receive the fullness of God's grace. In this sense, the prophetic 'rough places' and 'uneven ground' are both moral obstacles and the human condition, which Christ redeems and restores.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 speaks of the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to the Church through Christ, revealing that the preparatory work of John the Baptist is extended in Christ's followers: God has reconciled the world to Himself, calling us to participate in the levelling and straightening of spiritual paths.

Revelation 21:1-4 portrays the final unveiling of God's glory, where the redeemed dwell in a renewed creation, and all obstacles, every 'mountain and hill', are removed. Jesus' first coming initiates this fulfillment; His second coming consummates it. God continually prepares the way for His glory to be revealed through Christ, bringing reconciliation, justice, and hope to a fallen world.

Christ's life and ministry accomplish the leveling of spiritual obstacles, and we carry forward the call to reconciliation, heralding the good news to the ends of the earth.



2 Corinthians 5:19

Prayer points:

1. that God would humble the proud, heal the broken, and prepare our hearts to receive Christ in repentance and faith.
2. that the Church would faithfully continue the ministry of reconciliation, proclaiming Christ and preparing others for His coming.
3. Ask God to level the mountains of oppression and lift the valleys of suffering through His saving power.



Soli Deo Gloria – to God alone be the glory!
Rev. Luke Haisa