The Promise of Hope

I. INTRODUCTION

a. ***Mark 1:1-3***

II. THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE MAKING

a. ***Gen. 3:15*** – Seed of Eve would crush Satan; foretelling of Christ.

i. Thousands of years before the Incarnation, there is the foretelling of the coming of One who would dominate the Enemy of our souls

b. Out of the Garden came:

i. _____ _____, yet

ii. Within the curse lay the _____ of _____

c. We read in the opening of Mark two OT quotations from:

i. ***Isaiah 40:3-4*** -The forerunner will call for a clearing of the way for the Lord

1. ~700 years before Christ

ii. ***Malachi 3:1*** – God will send a messenger to prepare the way for the Lord to come and suddenly come to His temple

1. ~500 years before Christ

d. After Malachi there is prophetic silence (~400 years) until the revealing of the forerunner to the Messiah

III. THE FORERUNNER

a. _____ the _____ was born to elderly parents miraculously and lived an austere life calling Israel to the Lord

i. ***Matt. 3; Mark 1; Luke 1, 3***

ii. ***Matt. 11:11*** – highly graced and thought of by Christ

b. John the Baptist called Israel to _____ through Baptism

i. as distinct from the ceremonial washings that had to be regularly done

IV. WHAT WAS TO COME

a. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, under the prompting of the Holy Spirit, instructed to name his son "John," which means "The Lord is _____"

b. In *Luke 1:67-79*, Zacharias prophesied that the soon coming Christ would be a _____ of _____

c. With the coming of Christ, a baptism of water and of _____ would come, along with the restoring of fellowship with the Creator.

V. CONCLUSION

a. We have received _____

b. We get to bring the _____ to everyone we meet

c. We have been commissioned as forerunners for the _____ _____

ANSWER KEY:

- Out of the Garden came: **BROKEN** **FELLOWSHIP**, yet within the curse lay the **SEED** of **HOPE**
- **JOHN** the **BAPTIST** was born to elderly parents miraculously and lived an austere life calling Israel to the Lord
- John the Baptist called Israel to **REPENTANCE** through Baptism
- Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, under the prompting of the Holy Spirit, instructed to name his son "John," which means "The Lord is **GRACIOUS**" (Heb. *Johannin;* Gr. *Ioannes*)
- In *Luke 1:67-79*, Zacharias prophesied that the soon coming Christ would be a **HORN** of **SALVATION**
- With the coming of Christ, a baptism of water and of **FIRE** would come, along with the restoring of fellowship with the Creator.
- We have received **SALVATION**
- We get to bring the **HOPE** to everyone we meet
- We have been commissioned as forerunners for the **SECOND** **COMING**