

Bible Readings ~ 12/9

Malachi 3:1-4

Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me; suddenly the Lord whom you are seeking will come to his temple.

The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

Who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can withstand his appearance?

He is like the refiner's fire of the cleaner's soap.

He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver.

He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. They will belong to the Lord, presenting a righteous offering.

The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in ancient days and in former years.

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Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius . . .

God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled and every mountain and hill will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth.

All humanity will see God's salvation.”