

## WINDOWS INTO CHRISTMAS - MARK

Isaiah 40:1-5 | Mark 1:1-9

**Mark 1:1** *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

**Mark 1:2-3** uses three Old Testament references in describing the work and significance of what is taking place:

- **Malachi 3:1** *Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.*
- **Isaiah 40:3** *A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*
- **Exodus 23:20** *Behold, I send an angel before you (to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.)*

**John the Baptist was sent to prepare the people for what God was doing.**

**Jesus is the promised deliverer from heaven, sent to restore and establish an everlasting Kingdom.**

# GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

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## Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

## Mark 1:1-9

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.