



Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MATTHEW 11:11

- This statement points to the same in Matt. 5:17 – 20
- Why does Yeshua say there is no one greater than John? He means both as a human and as a Prophet.
- Early Church Father Jerome ***“John is greater than the other prophets for this reason: the other prophets predicted to John that someone was to come, but John pointed out with his finger that he had indeed come: saying “Behold, the Lamb of God...”***



The Paramount Importance Of **OBEDIENCE** to The Law

- John carried with him the spirit of Elijah
- John was not a prophesier of things to come; he was the herald of the fulfillment of many of those ancient prophecies
- There is a consequence for choosing to obey The Law vs. choosing not to
- Being members of the Kingdom is ONLY about trusting Christ
- Our societal status within the Kingdom of Heaven will be determined primarily according to our devotion to The Law

THEODORE OF MOPSUESTIA



- Does Yeshua have a bone to pick with John?
- Theodore, late 300's A.D., came from the Antioch branch of early Christianity
- Heavily influenced by Paul
- *"... Thus Jesus says that John by no means partakes of such great grace as those reborn into immortality after Jesus's resurrection...."*
- "Amen" is the word that begins vs. 11 indicating a sobering revelation is following
- John fulfilled his role as the heaven sent messenger, so he is in a sense "of the past", but of course remains relevant as does Moses, Isaiah, Daniel and others



- John “of the past” means prior to Christ’s resurrection
- Does NOT mean John and The Law went to the grave
- A member of The Kingdom (Believer) will be measured by devotion & obedience to The Law
- First for eternal impact: trust in Yeshua as Savior
- Second for eternal impact: obedience to The Law

Violent...
THE KINGDOM OF
GOD
SUFFERS VIOLENCE
& THE VIOLENT
TAKE IT BY *Force*

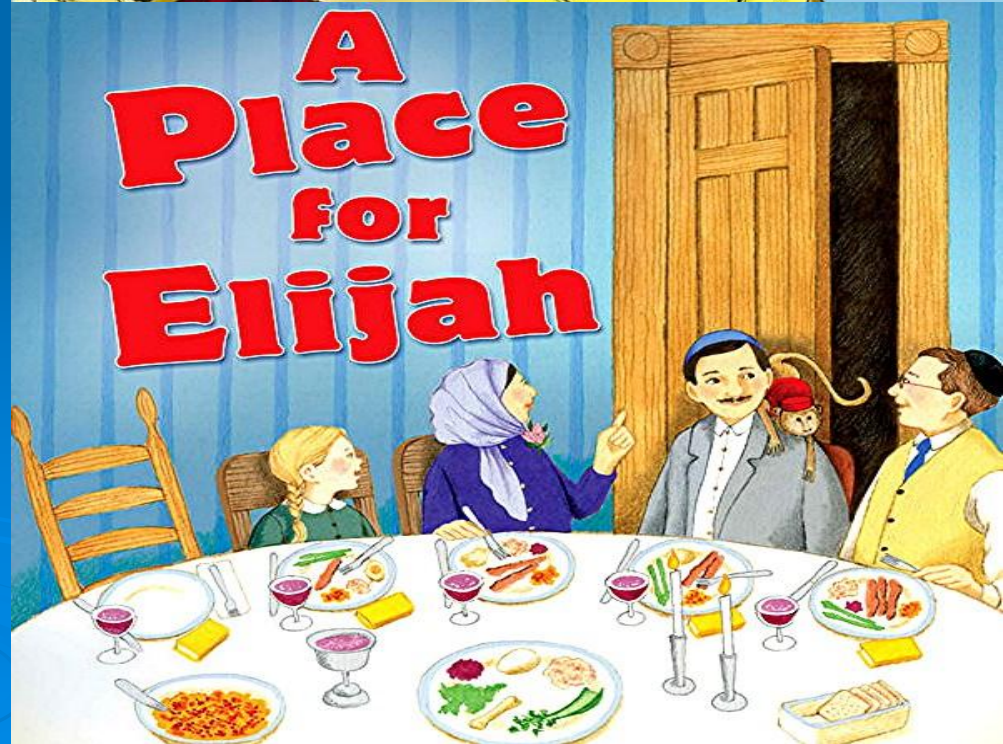
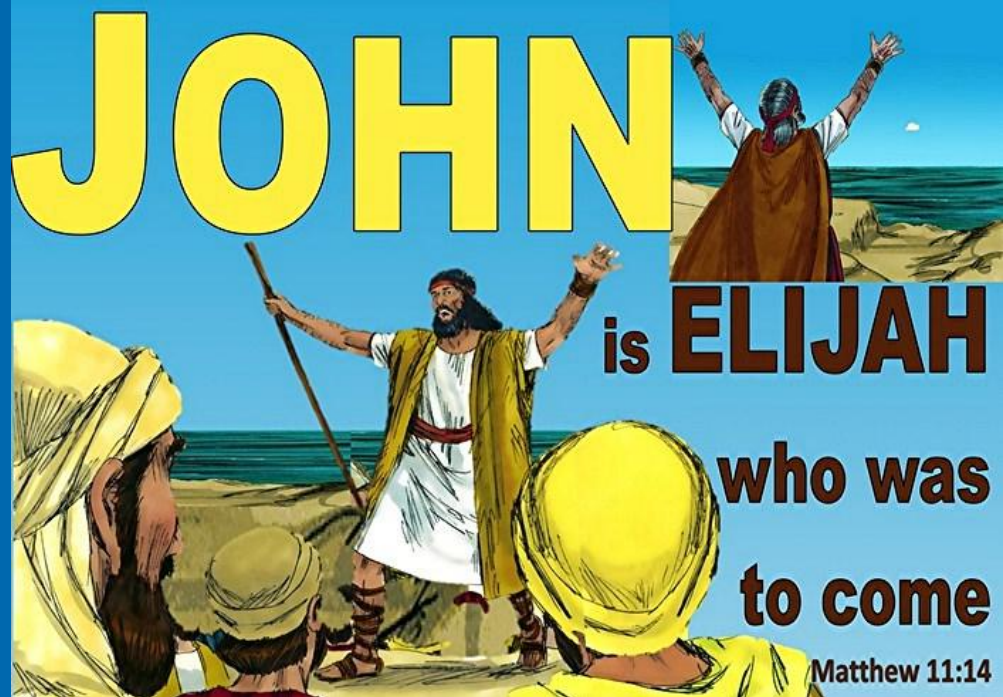
- Vss. 11 & 12 John's and The Kingdom's arrivals were in parallel so we know when The Kingdom of Heaven arrived
- Violent ones are those in opposition to The Kingdom of Heaven
- Evil couldn't touch the spiritual Kingdom while it was in Heaven
- Once The Kingdom came to earth, evil could attack it
- Spiritual and physical "violent ones" are the same, and it doesn't matter in what era they act
- The "violent ones" will continue to act until Yeshua returns

- Vs. 13 is interpreted by the gentile Church to say that Yeshua is abolishing The Law
- The verse context is: The Kingdom of Heaven
- The verse subject is: prophecy and Prophets
- Was Yeshua schizophrenic in His instructions?
- The issue is that prophecy about the coming of The Kingdom ended with John, because it became fulfilled

"For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John"



- Prophets and prophecy continue as the subject
- Vs. 14 often skipped over as Bible scholars don't think it should be there
- It disagrees with some Christian doctrines
- Malachi 3:22 – 24
- Elijah's involvement in the End Days was a settled matter in Christ's time
- Elijah continues to be important for Jews especially at Passover



1st ADVENT

2nd ADVENT

**ELIJAH
(John)**

ELIJAH



← OT TIMES →

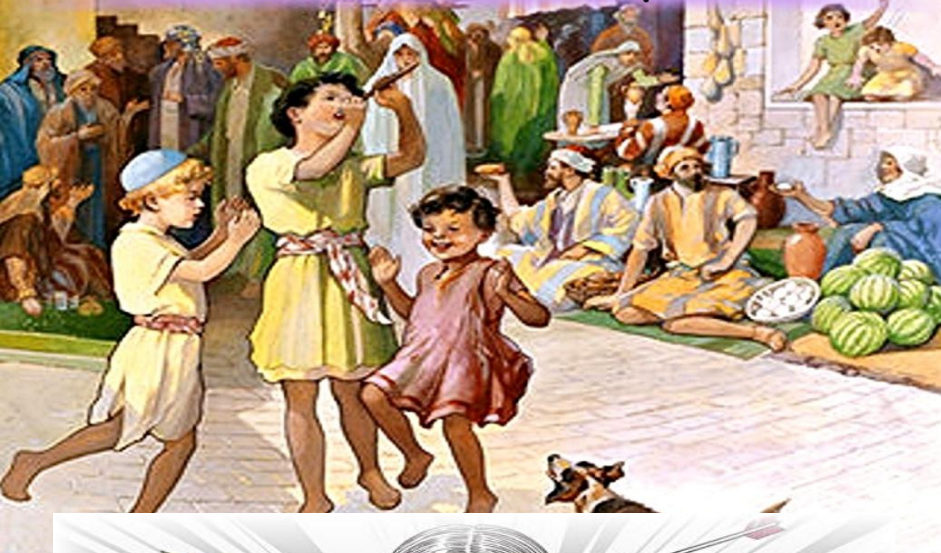
← NT & MODERN TIMES →

**1st LATTER
DAYS**

**2nd LATTER
DAYS**

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...children in the marketplace....



- Yeshua compares “this generation” with children in the marketplace
- Deut. 1:36 and 32:3 – 5
- “This generation” means the most conspicuous characteristic of the national community
- In the 1st century, it was those who were opposed to John and to Christ
- In 2020, our generation is similar to Christ’s generation
- One must agree and conform with the crowd or have your reputation, life, and peace destroyed



The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

- John came fasting and not drinking (wine); Jesus came eating and drinking (wine). And they were both criticized for it
- Yeshua kept social company with tax collectors (well to do, educated) and sinners (non-educated, poor), and He was criticized for it
- In the 21st century, Believers should not be surprised for seeing, and suffering, the same things