

GOSPEL PEARLS

The call of John the Baptist

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In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

*Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.*

*Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.*

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:1-6)