

يُوحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَان

¹وَفِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ جَاءَ يُوحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَان يَكْرِزُ فِي بَرِّيَّةِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، ²قَائِلًا: تَوُوبُوا لِلَّهِ قَدْ اقْتَرَبَ مَلَكُوتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ. ³فَإِنَّ هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي قِيلَ عَنْهُ بِإِسْعِيَاءَ النَّبِيِّ الْقَائِلِ: "صَوْتُ صَارِخٍ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ: أَعِدُّوا طَرِيقَ الرَّبِّ، اصْنَعُوا سُبُلَهُ مُسْتَقِيمَةً." ⁴وَيُوحَنَّا هَذَا كَانَ لِبَاسُهُ مِنْ وَبَرِ الْإِبِلِ وَعَلَى خَقَوْنِهِ مِطْطَقُهُ مِنْ جِلْدٍ، وَكَانَ طَعَامُهُ جَرَادًا وَعَسَلًا بَرِّيًّا. ⁵حِينَئِذٍ خَرَجَ إِلَيْهِ أَوْرُسَلِيمُ وَكُلُّ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ وَجَمِيعِ الْكُورَةِ الْمُحِيطَةِ بِالْأُرْدُنِّ، ⁶وَاعْتَمَدُوا مِنْهُ فِي الْأُرْدُنِّ مُعْتَرِفِينَ بِخَطَايَاهُمْ.

⁷فَلَمَّا رَأَى كَثِيرِينَ مِنَ الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ وَالصَّدُوقِيِّينَ يَأْتُونَ إِلَى مَعْمُودِيَّتِهِ قَالَ لَهُمْ: يَا أَوْلَادَ الْآفَاعِي، مَنْ أَتَاكُمْ أَنْ تَهْرُتُوا مِنَ الْعَصَبِ الْآتِي؟ ⁸قَاصِّعُوا أَنْمَارًا يَلِيقُ بِالنُّوْتَةِ، ⁹وَلَا تَفْتَكِرُوا أَنْ تَقُولُوا فِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ: لَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ أَبَا، لِأَنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَادِرٌ أَنْ يُقِيمَ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْحَجَارَةِ أَوْلَادًا لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ. ¹⁰وَالآنَ قَدْ وُضِعَتِ الْفَاسُ عَلَى أَصْلِ الشَّجَرِ، فَكُلُّ شَجَرَةٍ لَا تَصْنَعُ ثَمَرًا جَيِّدًا تُقَطَّعُ وَتُلْقَى فِي النَّارِ. ¹¹أَنَا أَعْمَدُكُمْ بِمَاءٍ لِلنُّوْتَةِ وَلَكِنَّ الَّذِي يَأْتِي بَعْدِي هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنِّي، الَّذِي لَسْتُ أَهْلًا أَنْ أَحْمِلَ حِذَاءَهُ، هُوَ سَيَعْمَدُكُمْ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِّ وَتَارٍ. ¹²الَّذِي رَفُسُهُ فِي يَدِهِ وَسَيَنْقِي بِنَدْرِهِ وَيَجْمَعُ قَمْحَهُ إِلَى الْمَخْرَنِ، وَأَمَّا التَّنُّبُّ فَيُخْرِفُهُ بِنَارٍ لَا تُطْفَأُ.

مَعْمُودِيَّةُ يَسُوعَ

¹³حِينَئِذٍ جَاءَ يَسُوعُ مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ إِلَى الْأُرْدُنِّ إِلَى يُوحَنَّا لِيَعْتَمِدَ مِنْهُ. ¹⁴وَلَكِنْ يُوحَنَّا مَنَعَهُ قَائِلًا: أَنَا مُحْتَاجٌ أَنْ أُعْتَمِدَ مِنْكَ وَأَنْتَ تَأْتِي إِلَيَّ؟ ¹⁵فَاجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: اسْمَحْ لِيَ، لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا يَلِيقُ بِنَا أَنْ نُكَمِّلَ كُلَّ بَرٍّ. ¹⁶حِينَئِذٍ سَمَحَ لَهُ. فَلَمَّا اعْتَمَدَ يَسُوعُ صَعِدَ لِلْوُقُوفِ مِنَ الْمَاءِ، وَإِذَا السَّمَاوَاتُ قَدْ انْفَتَحَتْ لَهُ فَرَأَى رُوحَ اللَّهِ تَارِلًا مِثْلَ خَمَامَةٍ وَآتِيًّا عَلَيْهِ، ¹⁷وَصَوْتُ مِنَ السَّمَاوَاتِ قَائِلًا: هَذَا هُوَ ابْنِي الْحَبِيبُ الَّذِي بِهِ سُرَرْتُ.

¹In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ²And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ³For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁴And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, ⁶And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: ⁹And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. ¹⁰And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ¹¹I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: ¹²Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. ¹³Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be

baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.