


The Message

Pastor Ron Smith

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’”



Crying in the Wilderness

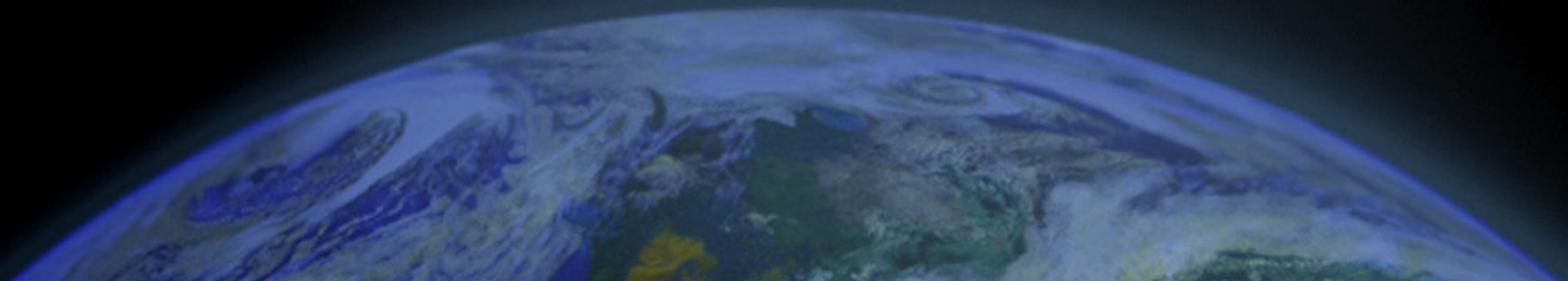


John's Clothes & Food



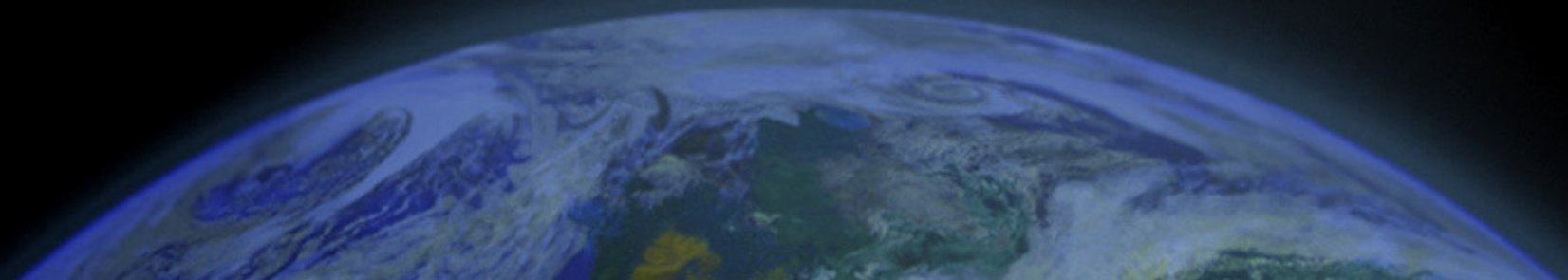
Malachi 4:5

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet



Isaiah 40

**“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!”
Says your God. “Speak comfort to
Jerusalem . . .”**



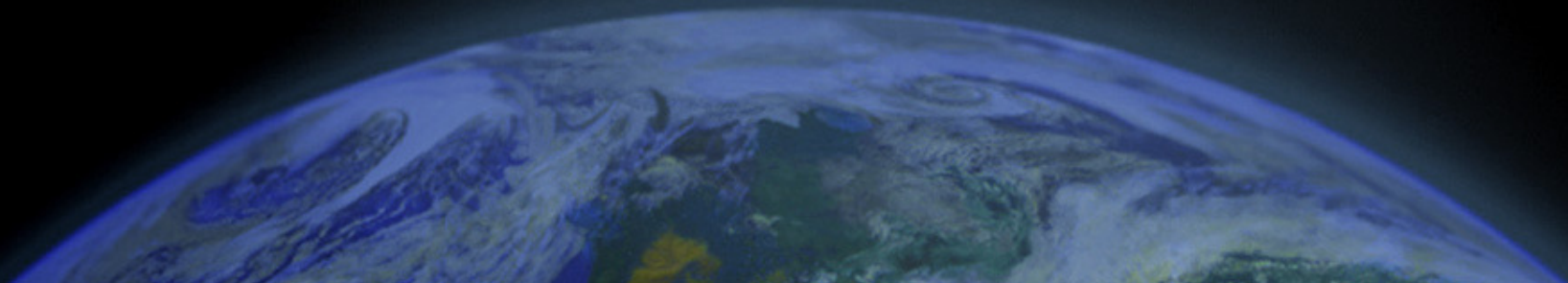
The Preparatory Work of the Comforter

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8).



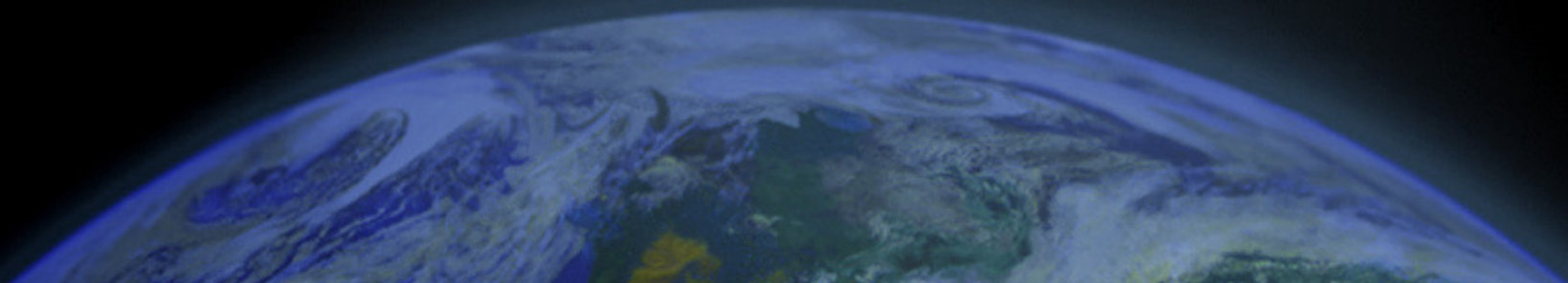
The Work of Humiliation

Isaiah 40:3-5



Turning the Hearts of the Fathers and the Children

Malachi 4:5



The Old Paths

Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16).



The Puritan Method

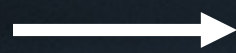
careless sinners

awakened sinners

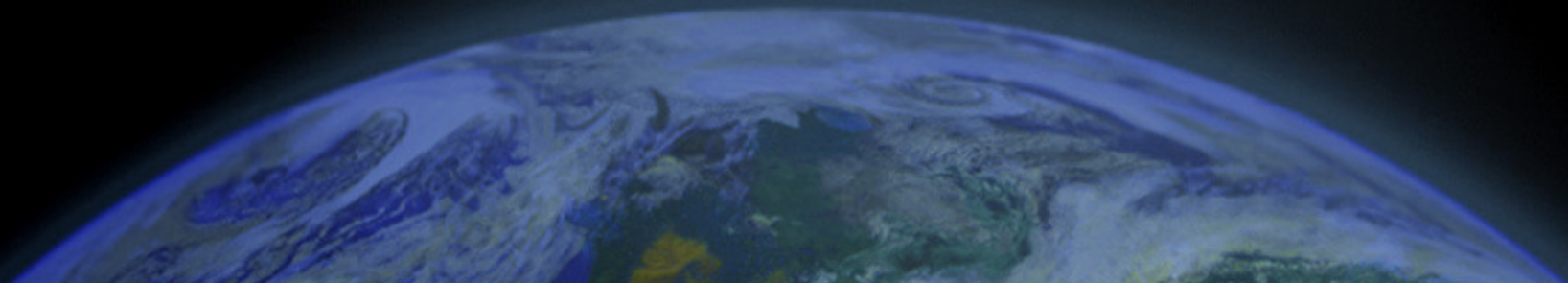
convicted sinners

The Prep Work

converted sinners



The Glory Revealed



Brood of Vipers

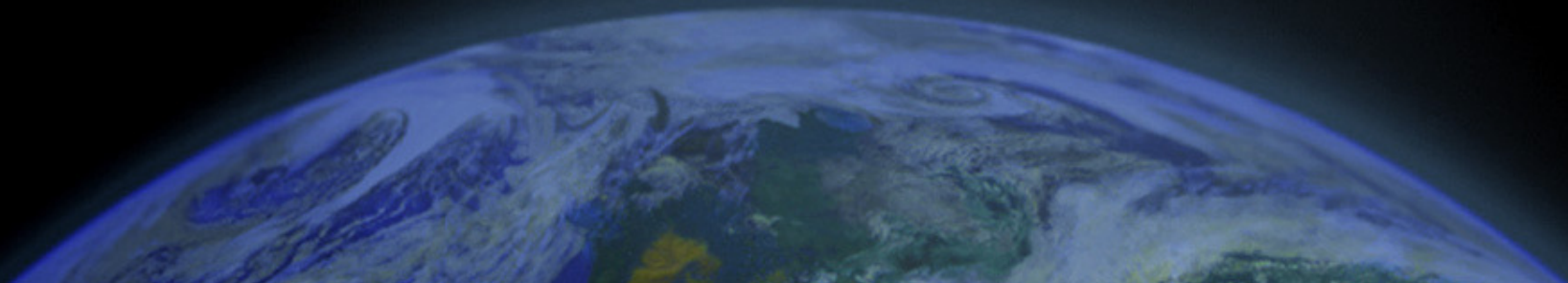


The Wrath to Come



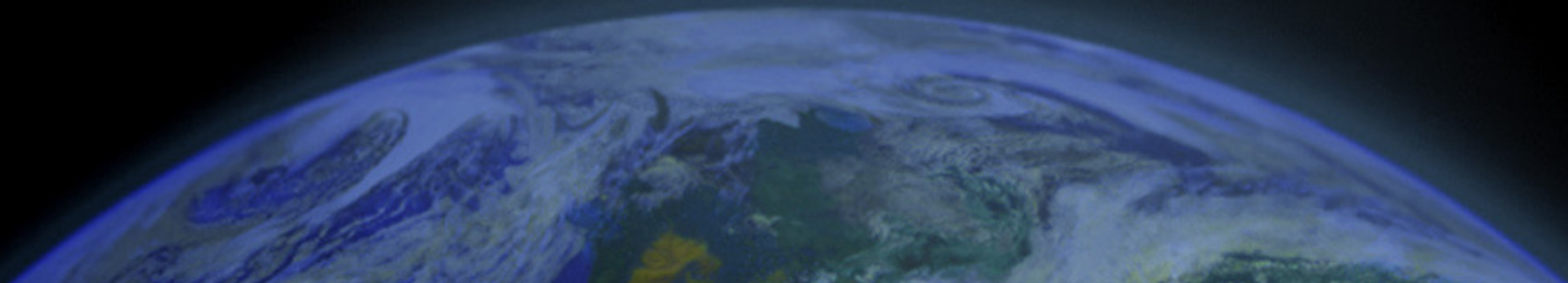
King's X

“We have Abraham as *our* father.”



Give 'em the Ax

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.



Water, Spirit, and Fire



The Wheat and Chaff



He Will Burn Up the Chaff

Revelation 21:7 “. . .shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

The cowardly

The unbelieving

The abominable

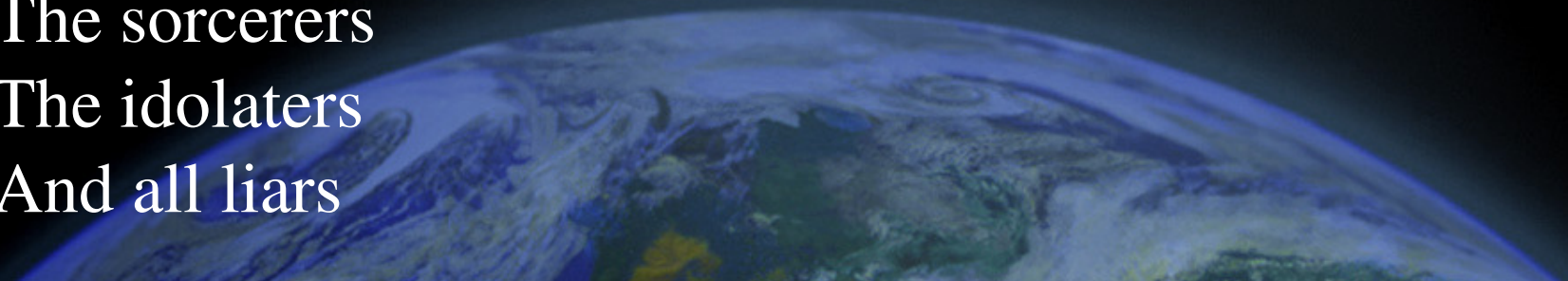
The murderers

The sexually immoral

The sorcerers

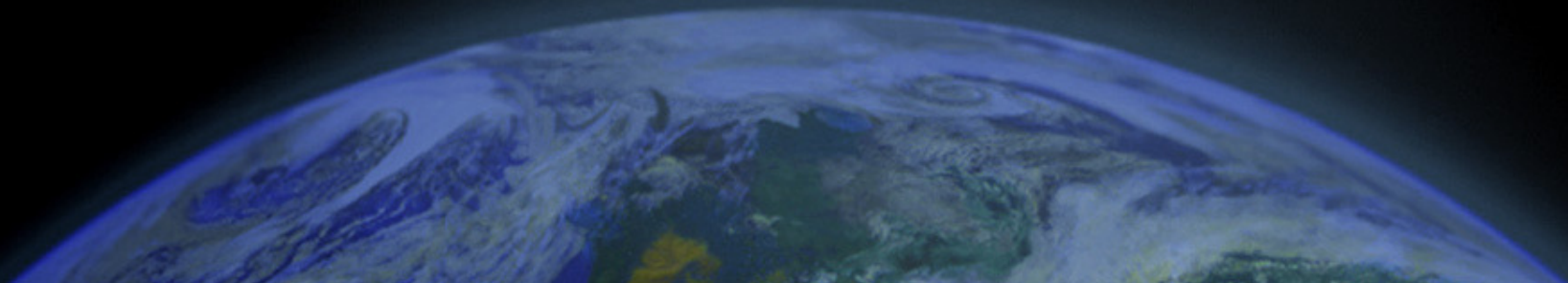
The idolaters

And all liars



God's Last Message Before John

Malachi 4:1-5



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