

– Wrath of God/Plagues Poured Out –
Matthew 3:7-12

- A – Warning of Coming Judgment –vs. 7
B – Repentance (fruits suitable) –vs. 8
C – Resurrection –God is able to raise up stones –vs. 9
C - Cross [sin was destroyed at Calvary] –vs. 10
Ax laid to the root of the tree
B – Repentance (baptism-water) / (baptism by fire - H.S) –vs. 11
A – Warning of Cleansing of the Sanctuary (Judgment)– vs. 12
DOA /Judgment
{Unquenchable Fire /will burn up the chaff}
- Living Stones of faith
- Indicates Separation

This picture painted by John the Baptist, gives insight early on in the account of the Gospels. We must keep in mind that the Baptist's primary audience is 'religious' people, though it would include all peoples, including the heathen (non-believers) who came out to see the Baptizer.

Because John was prophesied to "prepare the way of the Lord" {Isaiah 40:1-3} and is likened to the O.T. Prophet Elijah, we can expect similar language which Elijah used. Verse 7 indicates one of the strongest rebukes in Scripture warning of coming judgment. {Go and read the language the prophet uses.}

As is typical of other chiastic structures throughout the Bible, particularly the N.T., we find the focal point on the "Resurrection" and the "Cross", though here in reverse order. But before we reach the focal point, note the prior step, "Repentance" (the B statement). The prophet is calling our attention to what God is able to do—raise up stones 'living stones' by faith, but this only can become a reality if the 'ax is laid to the root of the tree', a reference to the Cross of Christ, where sin is destroyed.

But the Prophet John doesn't stop here, he concludes the chiasmus with reference to a "Warning of the Cleansing of the Sanctuary" in the future—which also involved Judgment, the Pre-Advent Judgment, when the heavenly counsel reviews the books to determine who is entitled to the benefits of Christ's atonement. {Of course all this is not stated in this short passage}, but John ends prophesying what will happen with the chaff—it will burn up with unquenchable fire.

Much truth for us to ponder!