A sepia-toned landscape featuring a winding dirt road that leads towards a hill. On the hill, there is a large, multi-towered castle or fortress. In the background, three large crosses are visible on a distant ridge. The overall scene is hazy and atmospheric.

A Proper Reponse to A Proper Prophet

Luke 3:1-9

Luke 3:1-4

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

Luke 3:4-6

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
‘Make ready the way of the Lord,
Make His paths straight.
Every ravine will be filled,
And every mountain and hill will be brought low;
The crooked will become straight,
And the rough roads smooth;
And all flesh will see the salvation of God.’”*

Luke 3:7-9

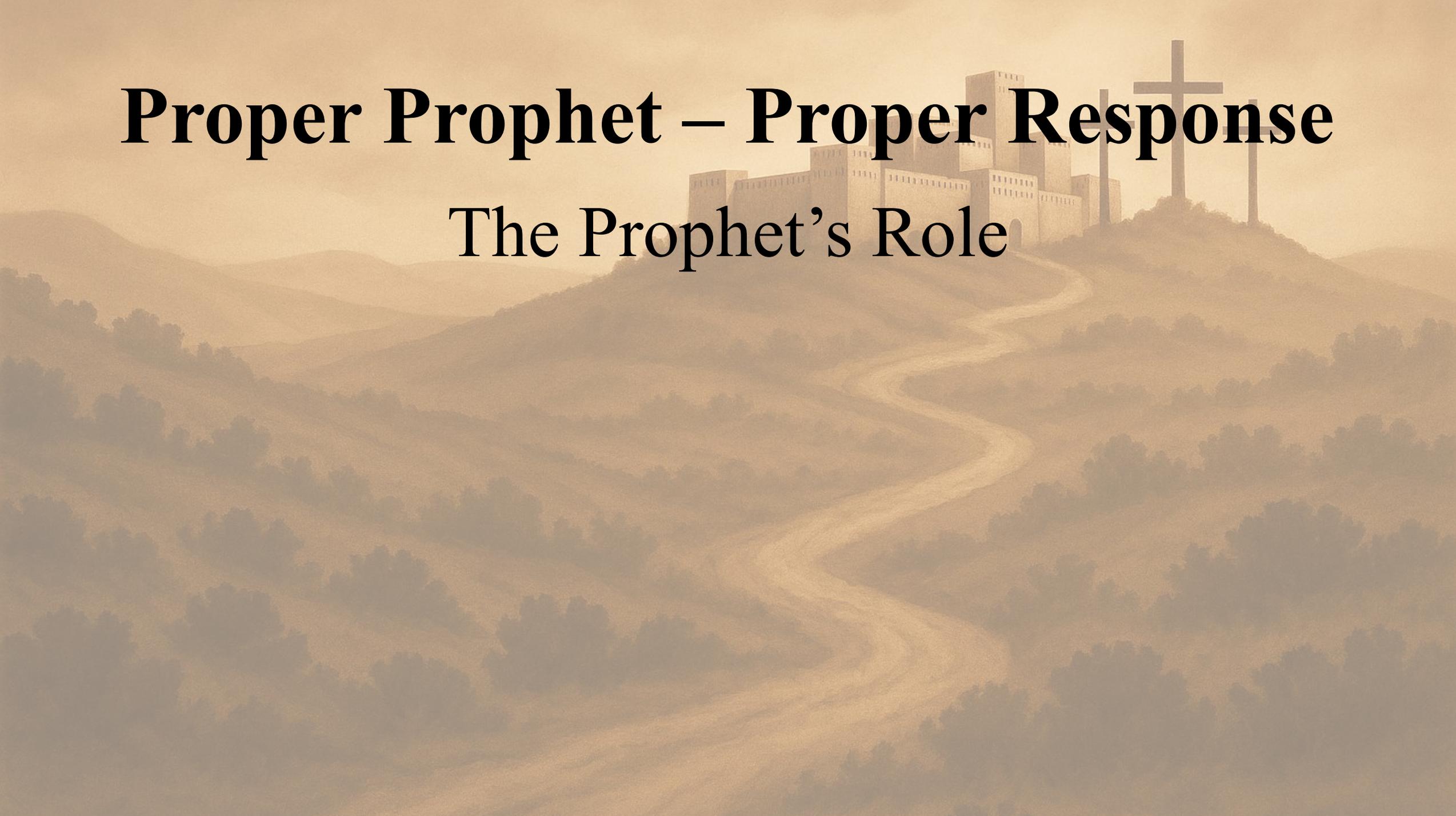
So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Main Point

God sends His messengers to you with gracious warnings so that you will hear, respond, and be saved.

Proper Prophet – Proper Response

The Prophet's Role



A Proper Prophet?

Luke 3:1-2

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...
the word of God came to John,
the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

A Proper Prophet's Role

To be a loud voice.



Luke 3:4

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,
“The voice of one crying in the wilderness.”

Luke 3:4

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying *in the wilderness.”*

Luke 3:4

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one shouting in the wilderness.”

Luke 3:4

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

*“The voice of one shouting **in the wilderness.**”*

The word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias,
in the wilderness.

The Lord sends His prophets
to loudly proclaim His message
so that they would have opportunity
to hear and respond.

A Proper Prophet's Role

To be a loud voice.

To be a voice of warning.



Luke 3:4

*“The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
‘Make ready the way of the Lord.’”*

Isaiah 40:9-10

Get yourself up on a high mountain,

O Zion, bearer of good news,

Lift up your voice mightily,

O Jerusalem, bearer of good news;

Lift it up, do not fear.

Say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might,

With His arm ruling for Him.

Behold, His reward is with Him

And His recompense before Him.

Isaiah 40:9-10

Get yourself up on a high mountain,

O Zion, **bearer of good news,**

Lift up your voice mightily,

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“Here is your God!”

Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might,

With His arm ruling for Him.

**Behold, His reward is with Him
And His recompense before Him.**

Implicit in the good news of God's coming is the warning of God's judgment when He comes.

Isaiah 66:15-16

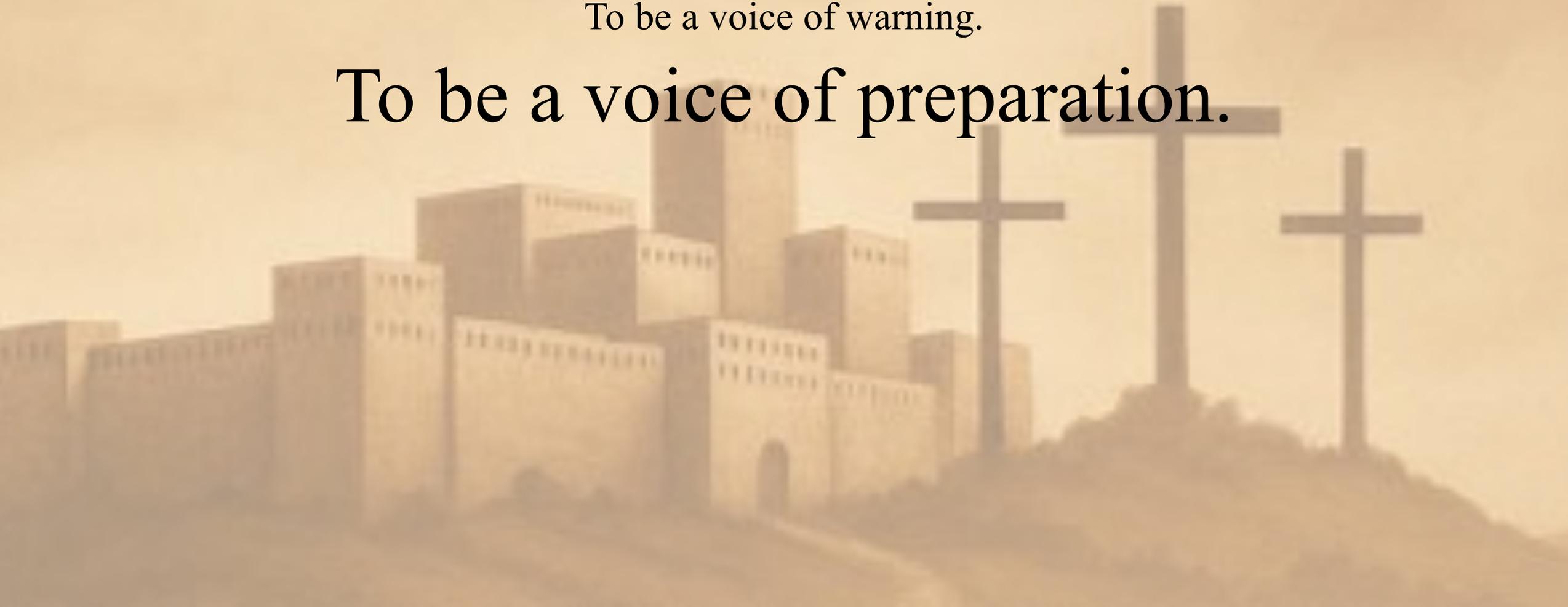
For behold, the LORD will come in fire
And His chariots like the whirlwind,
To render His anger with fury,
And His rebuke with flames of fire.
For the LORD will execute judgment by fire
And by His sword on all flesh,
And those slain by the LORD will be many.

A Proper Prophet's Role

To be a loud voice.

To be a voice of warning.

To be a voice of preparation.



Luke 3:4

*“The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
‘Make ready the way of the Lord.’”*

Luke 3:4

“The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,

***Prepare** the way of the Lord.”*

John’s message to the people was,

“Make preparations because the Lord is coming!”

Luke 1:17

It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him
in the spirit and power of Elijah,
To turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children,
and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous,
so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:17

It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him
in the spirit and power of Elijah,
To turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children,
and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous,

so as **to make ready a people
prepared for the Lord.**

Are you prepared for the Lord's coming?

Proper Prophet – Proper Response



The Prophet's Role

The Prophet's Message

A Proper Prophet's Message

You brood of vipers!



Luke 3:7

So he began saying to the crowds
who were going out to be baptized by him,
“You brood of vipers...”

Luke 3:7

So **he began saying *to the crowds***
who were going out to be baptized by him,
“You brood of vipers...”

Luke 3:7

So he began saying to the crowds
who were going out to be baptized by him,

“You brood of vipers...”

Luke 3:7

So he began saying to the crowds
who were going out to be baptized by him,

“**You *offspring* of vipers...**”

Isaiah 1:4

Alas, sinful nation,
People weighed down with iniquity,
Offspring of evildoers,
Sons who act corruptly!

John's use of the viper as a "father" image links their rebellious hearts to the original serpent.

A Proper Prophet's Message

You brood of vipers.

Fire is coming.



Luke 3:7 and 9

“You brood of vipers,
who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

**Vipers are among the first to flee
the fires in the wilderness.**

Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees;
so every tree that does not bear good fruit
is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Luke 3:7 and 9

“You brood of vipers,
who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

Indeed **the axe is already *laid* at the
root of the trees;**

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

Luke 3:7 and 9

“You brood of vipers,
who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

Indeed the axe is already *laid* at the root of the trees;

so **every tree that does not bear good fruit**
is cut down and **thrown into the fire.**”

Fire is the imagery of judgment
because of its consuming power,
its intensity, and its finality.

Isaiah 66:15-16

For behold, the LORD will come in **fire**

And His chariots like the whirlwind,

To render His anger with fury,

And His rebuke with **flames of fire.**

For the LORD will execute judgment by **fire**

And by His sword on all flesh,

And those slain by the LORD will be many.

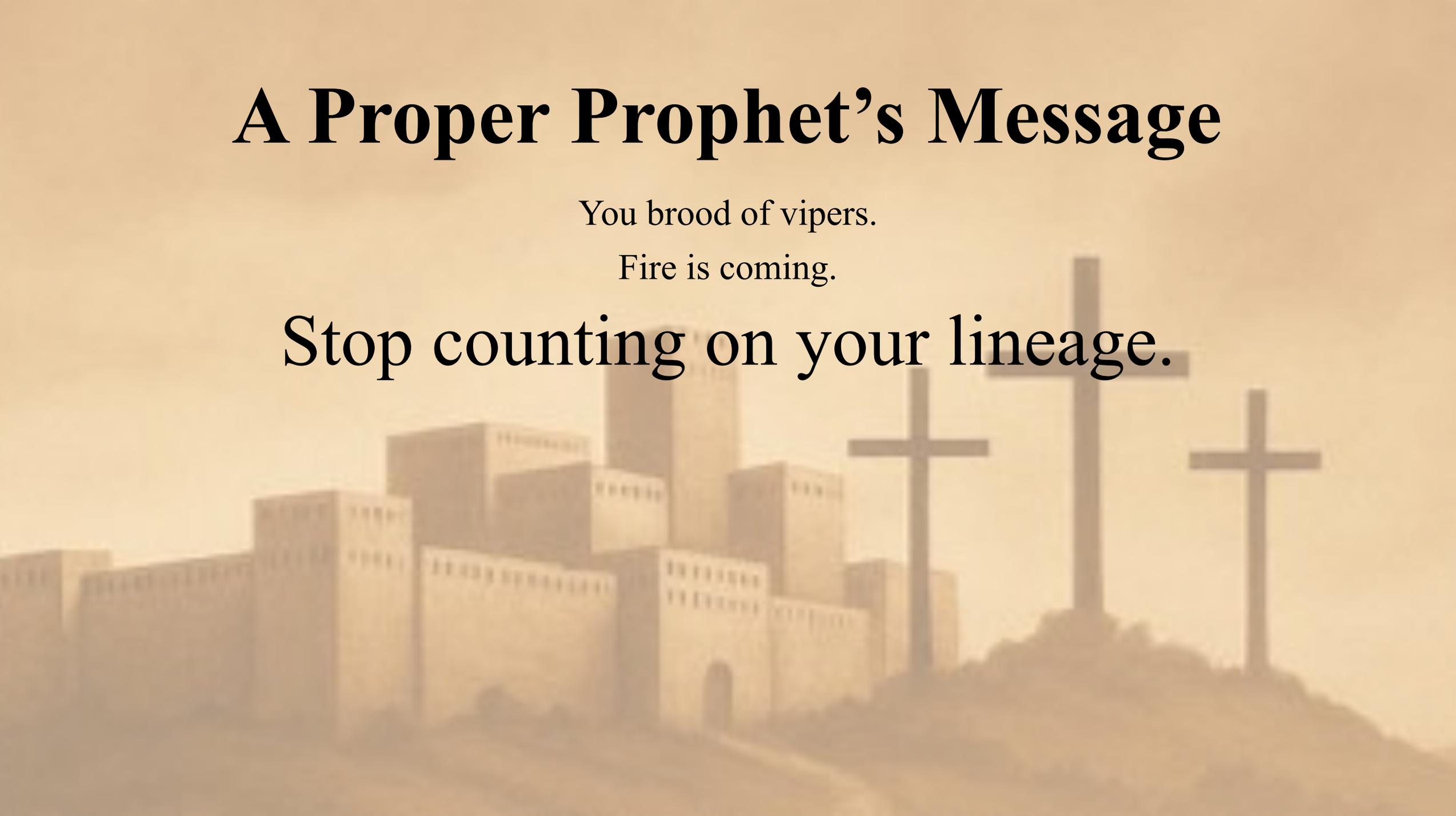
This warning is grace to you!

A Proper Prophet's Message

You brood of vipers.

Fire is coming.

Stop counting on your lineage.



Luke 3:8

Do not begin to say to yourselves,
“We have Abraham for our father,”
for I say to you that from these stones God is able
to raise up children to Abraham.

Luke 3:8

Do not begin to **say** to yourselves,

“We have Abraham for our father,”

for I say to you that from these stones God is able
to raise up children to Abraham.

Luke 3:8

Do not begin to say to yourselves,
“We have Abraham for our father,”

**for I say to you that *from these
stones* God is able
to raise up children to Abraham.**

The true descendants of Abraham
are not those who share his DNA
but those who share his faith.

Galatians 3:7

Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

Galatians 3:29

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

What are you counting on?

A Proper Prophet's Message

You brood of vipers.

Fire is coming.

Stop counting on your heritage.

Salvation is available through
the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:3 and 6

And he came into all the district around the Jordan,
preaching a baptism of repentance for the **forgiveness of sins**.

And all flesh will see the salvation of God.

Psalm 130:3-4

If You, LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with You,
That You may be feared.

Luke 1:76-77

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
For you will go on *before the LORD to prepare His ways*;
To give to His people the knowledge of salvation
consisting in the forgiveness of their sins.”

Luke 1:76-77

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
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Luke 1:76-77

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
For you will go on *before the LORD to prepare His ways*;
To give to His people the knowledge of salvation

consisting in the forgiveness of their sins.”

Sin is what separates you from God.

Without the forgiveness of sins,
there is no salvation, only judgment.

But...

Colossians 1:13-14

He rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

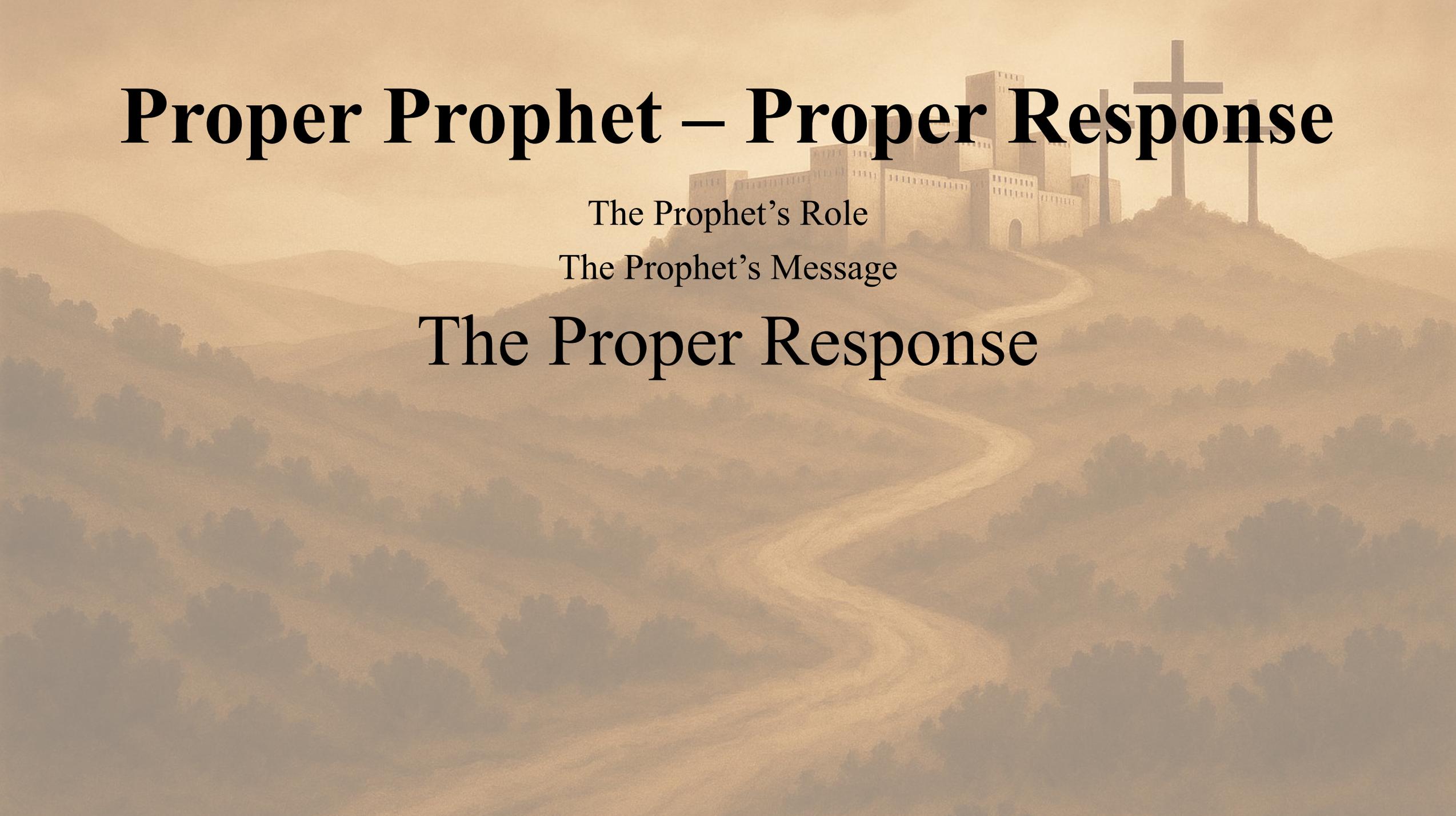
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Proper Prophet – Proper Response

The background of the slide features a sepia-toned illustration of a city built on a hillside. A dirt road winds through a forested valley towards the city. In the distance, three crosses are visible on the horizon, suggesting a religious or historical setting.

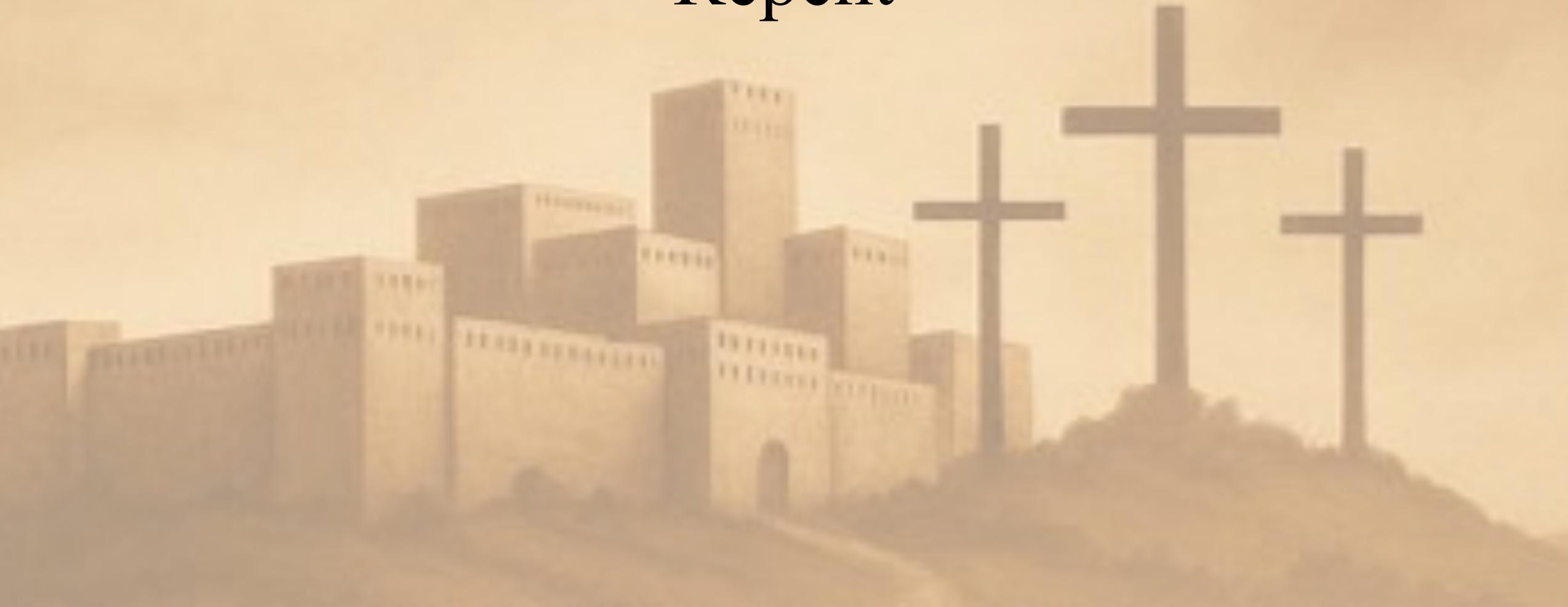
The Prophet's Role

The Prophet's Message

The Proper Response

The Proper Response

Repent



Luke 3:3

And he came into all the district around the Jordan,
preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:3

And he came into all the district around the Jordan,

preaching **a baptism *of repentance*** for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 3:1-2

Now in those days John the Baptist came,
preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,
“**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Jesus' Message?

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

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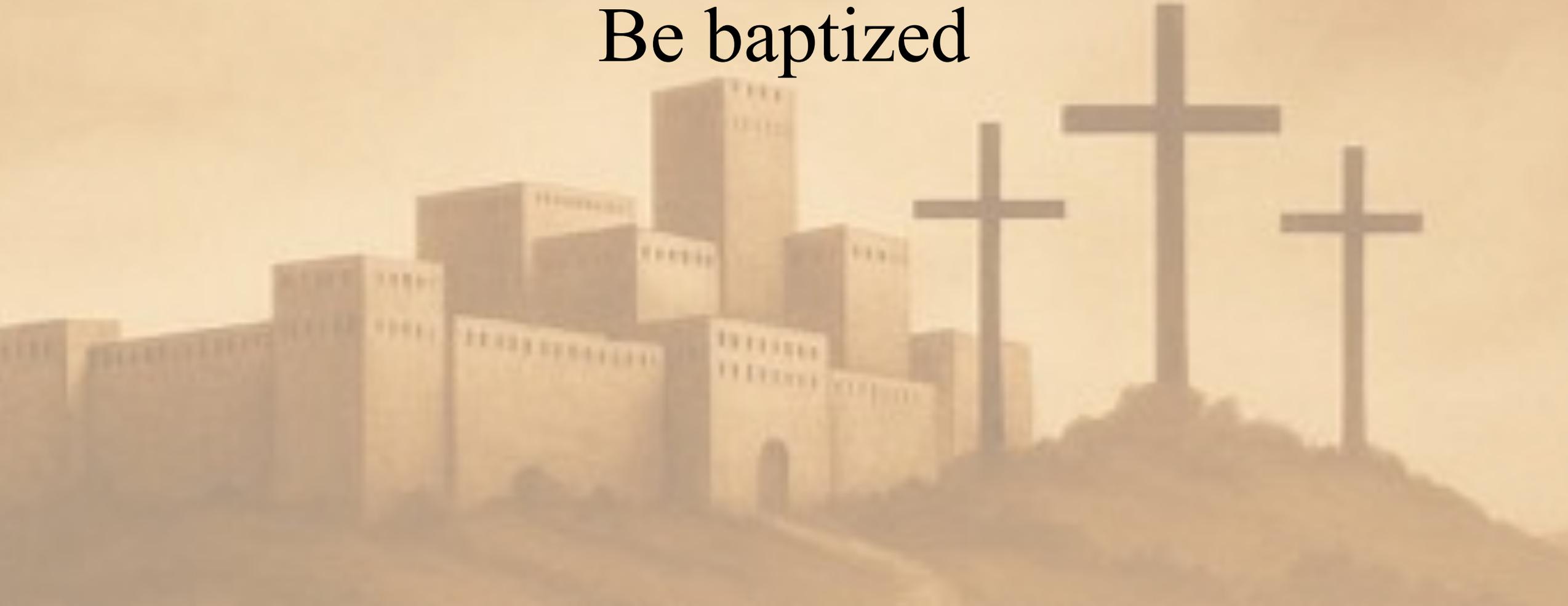
repent and believe *in* the gospel."

Repentance and faith are not
once-and-done acts but demonstrate
the disposition of hearts transformed
by the grace of the gospel.

The Proper Response

Repent

Be baptized



Luke 3:3

And he came...preaching **a baptism of repentance**
for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:3

And he came...preaching *a baptism* of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 2:37-38

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart,
and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,
“Brethren, what shall we do?”

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized
in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

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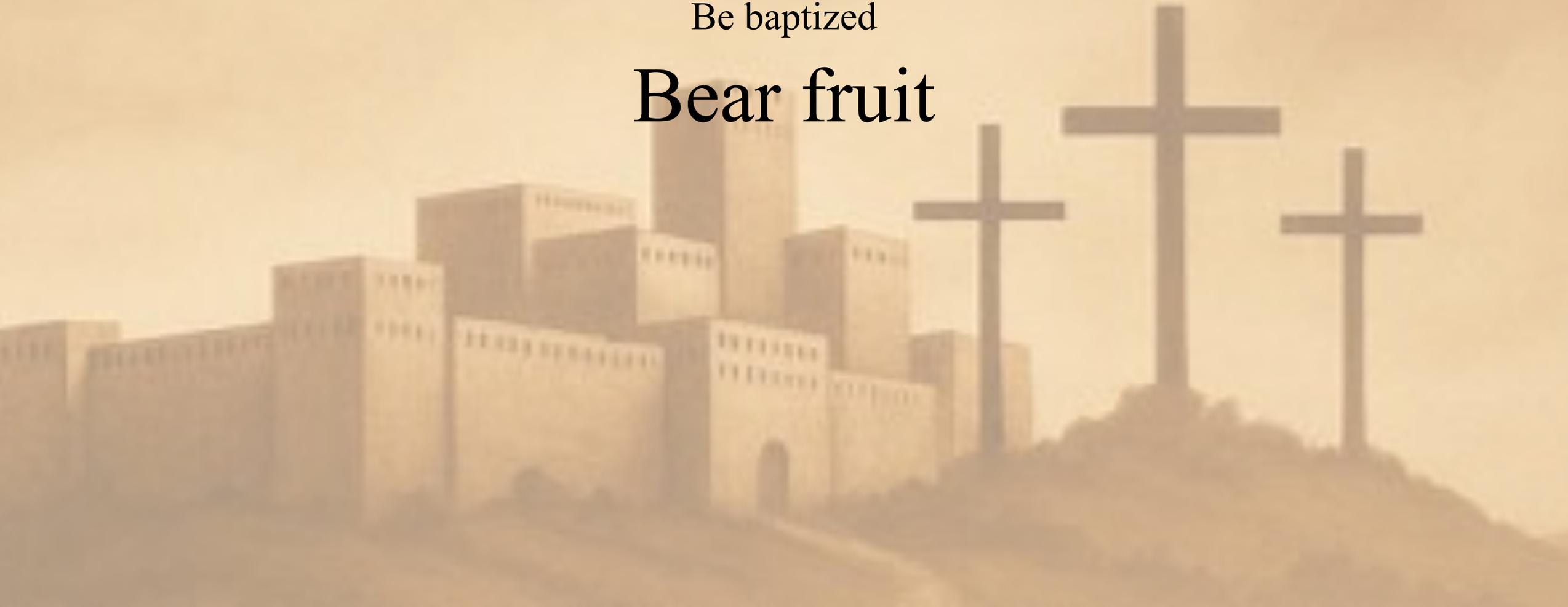
Baptism is the visible act of obedience that demonstrates repentance and faith and that signifies salvation.

The Proper Response

Repent

Be baptized

Bear fruit



Luke 3:8

Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance.

Luke 3:8

Therefore **bear fruits** in keeping with repentance.

Luke 3:8

Therefore bear fruits **in keeping with repentance.**

Because true repentance and faith
are products of a transformed heart,
there will be produce.

Matthew 12:33-35

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

You brood of vipers, how can you,
being evil, speak what is good?

For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good;
and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.”

Good works are not *instruments*
of your justification, but they are
fruits of your faith.

For Reflection

How are you responding to God's gracious warnings to you?

What are you counting on for your salvation?

Does the fruit of your life indicate that the disposition of your heart is repentance and faith?