

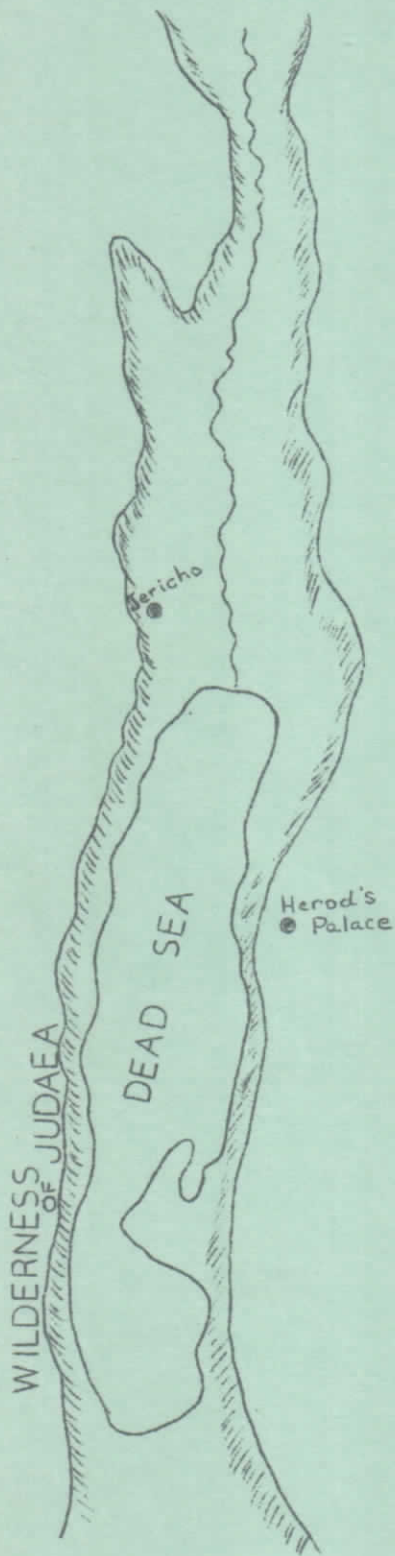
JOHN THE BAPTIST - JORDAN RIVER AND DEAD SEA

J

Where did John the Baptist live as a young man before he began to preach? Luke 1:80 says that he lived in the desert. Many people think that this desert was the land just west of the Dead Sea. It is called "the wilderness of Judaea." The mountains are bare here. Nothing grows. All you can see are gray rocks and hills.

John the Baptist wore camel's hair and leather and lived alone here. I imagine he was very brown from the hot sun. When John the Baptist was 30 years old he began to preach. He told men they had better get ready for the Son of God Who was coming. Many people listened to this strange, strong man. Some were sorry for their sin. They believed and were baptized in the Jordan River. (Matthew 3:6)

Many people think that it was near the Jordan River that John the Baptist preached. Here an important road crosses over from Jericho. Many people came along this road on their way to and from Jerusalem. We do not know exactly where it was that John was preaching when Jesus came to him and asked to be baptized. Some people think it was at the Jordan close to Jericho and other people think it was at a place on the river about 13 miles south of the Sea of Galilee. We do know that Jesus came and was baptized by John in the Jordan River, (Matthew 3:13) and that God's voice was heard saying, "This is My beloved Son."



TURN CARD OVER

After about a year, King Herod put John the Baptist in prison. He was in prison for over a year. Then Herod had John killed. Many people believe the place of John's death was at Herod's palace near the Dead Sea.