

Advent 2: December 10, 2006

Alternative Gospel reading (see p. 34, Fall 2006 *Leader*)

Scripture reader begins reading: Luke 3:1-3 (NIV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

Someone dressed as a construction foreman (including hard hat, orange vest/shirt, clipboard) or as an employee from your state road department interrupts the scripture reader.

Construction worker: I have here an order for road construction.

Scripture reader: Excuse me?

Construction worker: It says here (v. 4b-5 from Peterson's *The Message*):

Thunder in the desert!
“Prepare God’s arrival!
Make the road smooth and straight!
Every ditch will be filled in,
Every bump smoothed out,
The detours straightened out,
All the ruts paved over.”

That’s my order!

Scripture reader: Well, yes, I guess that is what it says!

Construction worker: All right, then. For one hundred miles of pavement, we will need _____ tons of dirt, _____ gallons of tar, _____ tons of rock, _____ human work hours, etc. (fill in estimated amounts). When it is finished, “Everyone will be there to see the parade of God’s salvation.”

Construction worker exits.

Scripture reader: *Stares at exiting construction worker in amazement, looks down at Bible, looks up at congregation.* Yes, I guess that IS what it says!