

## Lesson #3

### JOHN'S BAPTISM

During the month of May, we are studying four lessons on BAPTISM named after biblical characters.

- May 4 Noah's Baptism (1 Pet.3:18-22)
- May 11 Moses' Baptism (1 Cor.10:1-2)
- **May 18 John's Baptism (John 1:19-34)**
- May 25 Jesus' Baptism (Matt.3:11-12)

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Pharisees came to John with two questions they wanted answered.

1. How did John become such a spiritual influence in Israel in such a short time? (1:19-23/ write John's answer on blank line\_\_\_\_\_).
2. Why did John baptize in water?  
(1:24-28/ write John's answer on blank line\_\_\_\_\_).

#### Seven reasons why John baptized with water.

1. John was sent by God as the prophetic voice of the Coming of Christ (Mark 1:1-3; John 1:19-23; Isa.40:3; Luke 1:16-17; 76-77).
2. John's baptism was an initiatory rite of Jewish men in anticipation of the Coming of Christ (Isa.40:3; Matt.3:3; Mark 1:2-3; Luke 3:4-6; John 1:23).
3. John's baptism was of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Matt.3:1-3,6,11; Mark 1:4-5, Luke 3:3-6; Acts 13:24-25). [Metanoia meant to change the mind regarding the will of God pertaining to the forgiveness of sin. It was no longer shadow Christology once Christ came historically into the world/ read carefully Acts 13:24 and 19:4 (Matt.1:21; 26:28; Luke 3:15-18; Mark 1:14-15; Heb.10:12,18).]
4. John had been given the responsibility of identifying the person of the Messiah to Israel by baptism (John 1:29-34; 4:40-42).
5. John's baptism of Jesus Christ was a visual lesson of the presence of the kingdom of God in the world (Matt.3:2; John 1:14-18).
6. John refused baptism to those who refused to believe his message (Matt.3:7-12; 21:23-27; Luke 3:7-9; 7:30-35; John 3:1,5,10).
7. John's baptism of Jesus was a precursor to Jesus' baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matt.3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)

John and Jesus were second cousins. Their mothers were familiar with the prophetic future of these two cousins (Luke 1-3).

*"And I did not recognize Him, but in order that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." (1:31)*

*“And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’” (1:33)*

*“And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” (1:34)*

**The rest of this lesson will study FOUR aspects of John’s Baptism of Jesus.  
Why did John baptize Jesus, but never received baptism himself?**

**1. According to Matthew’s account, John the Baptist resisted the idea of baptizing Jesus in the beginning (Matt.3:13-15).**

The Greek word for prevent is (diakoluo/ impf.a.ind/ to object to a policy or procedure). What was the policy associated with John’s baptism that John didn’t think Jesus needed? (Matt.3:1-3, 6; Luke 3:3)

John declared that he was the one that should to be baptized by Jesus – “I have need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” (Matt.3:15) [In John’s mind, neither of them needed John’s baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of their sins or both of them needed it.]

**2. Jesus told John that John’s baptism of Jesus was necessary to fulfill all righteousness (Matt.3:15).**

Stop and think about this question – “*Why did the sinless Son of God submit to be baptized by a redeemed sinner named John the Baptist?*”

“But Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Permit (aphiemi/ a.a.impv) it at this time (right time in plan of God); for (gar/ reason) in this way (houtos/ identification of Christ) it is fitting (prepo/ p.a.ptc/ to distinguish the divine purpose of John’s baptism) for us (John prophetic forerunner and Jesus the messianic savior) to fulfill (pleroo/ a.a.infin/ plan of God/ historical Christology) all righteousness (dikaiosune/ rightwiseness) (Rom.3:21-26). ’” (Matt.3:15)

Righteousness took Jesus where sin took the world, the cross (2 Cor.5:21).

**3. The writer, John, explains six things that occurred at the baptism of Jesus that impacted John the Baptist to testify that Jesus was the messianic savior of the world (1:29-34) (1:7-8,15, 19-20, 34).**

- Lamb of God – take away sin of world
- Man of higher rank – who existed before John (John was 6 months older) (1:15, 27,30)
- Manifest to Israel – John’s baptism in water was the way for recognizing the Christ
  - Luke records John praying at the baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-22)
  - Matthew, Mark, and Luke record a voice from heaven – “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.” (Luke 3:22)
- Spirit descending like a dove – remaining upon Him
- This is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matt.3:11, John 1:33)
- I have seen and have borne witness – this is the Son of God.

John’s baptism was to identify and declare the person of the Messiah to Israel (John 1:29-34).

**1. All three members of Godhead were represented at baptism of Jesus.**

- **The Father’s** voice out of heaven – “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” (Matt.3:17)
- **The Son** being baptized by John – (Mark 1:9-11)
- **The Holy Spirit** descending like a dove and remaining upon Jesus – (Matt.3:16; Luke 3:22; John 1: 32). [Jesus is ready to begin His earthly ministry (Luke 4:18; Isa.11:2-3; 42:1; 61:1-2).]

John baptized Jesus to fulfill ALL righteousness (John 3:22-30; 4:1-2; 5:31-40; Acts 1:4-5; 2:33; 19:1-7).