

John the Baptist

- I. **Introduction:** Bridge between OT prophets and NT dispensation

- II. **Background** – Birth to beginning of his ministry (Luke 1:80)
 - A. **Time “Herod the Great”** – The one who slew all the children 2yrs. + under (Mat.2:16)
 - B. **Parents:** Zecharias the priest, Elisabeth, Aaronic line (Luke 1:5)
 - C. Their son (John)shall be **great in the sight of the Lord** & Nazarite (Luke 1:15)
 - D. John shall **turn many to the Lord**, (In the sense of the OT economy) (Lu. 1:16)
 - E. John shall go before “HIM” in the **spirit and power of Elijah** (Lu. 1:17)
 - F. John was **6 months older** than Jesus of Nazareth. (Luke 1:16)
 - G. John was born (Luke 1:57)
 - H. Zecharias prophesied about the Savior and his son, **John, the prophet.** (Luke 1:68-79)
 - I. John’s period of growth and development in the desert. (Luke 1:80)

III. **John’s Message & Ministry**

Ascetic Life
Style

Do not rely on
your heritage
or keeping of
the law

- A. John was the fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3, and Malachi 3:1
- B. John appeared in the manner of Elijah (Camels hair and he ate locust (Mat. 3:4)
- C. **REPENT** (Change your mind, thinking, and show fruits of repentance(Mat. 3:2,8)
- D. The Kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Mat. 3:2) The code word for OT prophesies. There had been no VOICE from God for 400 years, since Malachi.
- E. Many of the common people responded and were baptized (Mat.3:4-5)
- F. His message to the religious leaders: “Ye generations of vipers...” the AXE is at the root of the tree... cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Mat. 3:7-10).
- G. What were fruits of repentance ? Help others (Common people), do not overtax the people (Publicans), don’t be violent, be content with your wages (Soldiers). Lu. 3:11-14)
- H. John pointed to One Mightier than himself.
 - 1. He that comes after me was before me. (John 1:15) Christ’s DEITY!!!
 - 2. He is the Son of God (John 1:34)
 - 3. The Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)
 - 4. I baptize with H2O, but He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost & Fire. (Luke 3:16)

IV. The Baptism of John the Baptist

- A. Get baptized by immersion (John 3:23 much water there), as an outward symbolism of inner repentance.
- B. Historical Precedent
 - 1. Tabernacle Laver (Ex. 30:18-21; 38:8) For priests to wash their hands and feet.
 - 2. Solomon's Sea (II Chronicles 4:2) Molten Sea to wash in. 10 cubits. 15 feet from brim to brim. 5 cubits high. It was HUGE!!!.. (I Kings 7:23). Some scholars think that they washed more than just their hands and feet, i.e. washed their entire body??? For really effective and total ceremonial cleansing.
 - 3. Mikveh- Gentile Proselyte baptism for ceremonial cleansing.
 - 4. John the Baptist's baptism by immersion. John expected the entire Jewish nation to submit to his baptism. They all needed cleansing. The common people submitted. The religious leaders opposed it. Just as they opposed Christ's message.
- C. **Believers' baptism.** Identification with Ro. 6:2; Gal 2:20, etc...
- D. **Christ's baptism "to fulfill all R+."**
 - 1. Believers baptism is a symbolic picture of their identification of Christ's death on the cross. A past event that took place when Christ DIED on the Cross.
 - 2. See Gal 2:20. I am crucified with Christ (I the past. Ro. 6:2. Aorist tense. A one time event in the past. That is how God looks at it.
 - 3. Christ's Baptism looks forward to his passion and death on the cross. He is baptized in ANTICIPATION of fulfilling ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS. IT IS FINISHED (John 19:30 the debt has been paid. That is what is meant by FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS. To maintain God's justice that He might justify the justifier of him that believeth on Jesus.

V. Jesus' Comments about John the Baptist

- A. John is greater than all born of women. Natural birth (Mat. 11:11)
- B. Yet, the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist.
- C. John the Baptist is the Elijah that was to come. A fearless, holy man of God, who was not afraid to speak God's message, even though it cost him his life less than one year after the beginning of his ministry.