

# Jesus Described John the Baptist

- Jesus described John the Baptist as “*a prophet and more than a prophet.*” It is important to understand why as we are tied to him.
- *As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. Mt. 11:7-12*

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- Jesus gave two reasons:
- 1. This is he of whom it is written.
- 2. Of men born of women, not risen one greater than John the Baptist.
- *10 For this is he of whom it is written: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."*
- *11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."*
- Yet "**he who is least in the kingdom**" is greater.

# The Life and Work of John the Baptist

- As Jesus, John's birth and work were foretold
- *Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. Mal 3:1*
- This was written about 400 years before the actual events. John would come to clear the way before Jesus.

# The Life and Work of John the Baptist

- As Jesus, John's birth and work were foretold
- *Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse. Mal 4:5-6*
- Additional information is given as the very last verse of the Old Testament Scriptures.

# They were waiting for him

- *Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord, "' as the prophet Isaiah said." Jn 1:19-23*

# They asked the Wrong Question

- *And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist. Mt 17:10-13*
- *"And if you care to accept it, he himself is Elijah, who was to come. Mt 11:13-14*

# His Introduction was Spectacular

- Gabriel is sent to an old priest whose wife is barren. Lk 1:5-7
- A very public venue is chosen to reveal this truth. Lk 1:8-17
- Because of Zacharias doubt, the testimony is further strengthened. Lk 1:18-20
- Both the length of time and the lack of speech lead to great amazement. Lk 1:21-22

# Mary also Enters at This Time

- Gabriel sends Mary to Elizabeth, her relative in her sixth month of pregnancy Lk 1:26-38
- Mary leaves near the time of Elizabeth's giving birth Lk. 1:56
- At John's birth the name causes a stir and Zacharias begins to speak. Lk 1:57-64
- These events are discussed among a large group of people. They determine to watch this child. Lk. 1:65-66
- Zacharias gives a prophecy. Lk 1:67-79