

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*

Jesus Described John the Baptist

- 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.

John's 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

Zacharias Inspired Prophecy

67 Now his father Zacharias was *filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied*, saying: ... 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; *For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,* 77 *To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,* 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and *was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.* Lk. 1:76-80

Never Risen a Greater than John...

- *you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,*
- This had never been offered before!
- The Law moved them to the head of the scapegoat and sent them into the wilderness.
- They were remembered year by year...
- Remission of sins was never offered under the Law.

Only Jesus Sacrifice brought Remission

- *For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. Heb 10:1-5*

Thirty Years Later ...

- *Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. Lk 3:1-2*

Preaching Remissions of Sins

- *And he went into all the region around the Jordan, **preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE WORDS OF ISAIAH THE PROPHET,** saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" Lk. 3:3-6*

A Baptism of Repentance ...

- *And he went into all the region around the Jordan, **preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE WORDS OF ISAIAH THE PROPHET,***
- John's preaching consisted of one thing. A baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
- This preaching was "*as it is written*" hence it is the direct fulfillment of Isaiah.

This Baptism was the beginning

- *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" 4 **John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.** 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Mk 1:1-5*

John's Life in Summary

- *15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, 16 John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." Luke 3:15-20*

John's Life in Summary

- *18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, 20 also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.*
Lk. 3:15-20
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John's Life in His own Words

- John 1:15
- John 1:19-28 To the Jews sent from Jerusalem
- Jn 1:29-34 The Next Day to His disciples
- Jn 1:35 The Next Day to His disciples