

Ministry of John the Baptist
Luke 3:1-22

I. Preparing the Way – 3:1-6

1. Israel under Roman control – 1
In the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar
Pontus Pilate was Governor of Judea
Herod was Tetrarch of Galilee
His brother Philip was Tetrarch of the region
Ituraea & Trachonitis
Lysanias was Tetrarch of Abilene
2. High Priests of Israel were Annas & Caiaphas – 2
These were leaders of the people of Israel
3. During this time John was called by God – 2
God came to him in the wilderness to prepare for coming of Messiah
John was to proclaim a “baptism of repentance”
as predicted by Isaiah
Note the words of Paul in Acts 19:4
4. This “baptism of repentance” forgave their sins
And was demonstrated by repentance (change)
Luke quotes this from Isaiah 40:3-5
5. Spoke of John’s voice crying in the wilderness– 4
“Prepare the way of the Lord”
Make His paths straight
Fill in the valleys – 5
And level the mountain & the hills
Let the crooked be made straight
The rough places be made level
And all flesh shall see “the salvation of God” - 6
6. This is what sinful man needs,
but can not reach apart from God
7. John preaches repentance – 7
He encourages baptism to demonstrate reality of change
Don’t come for baptism as a way to avoid “God’s wrath”
8. Don’t come because you are one of Abraham’s – 8
God is able to use stones to raise up children of Abraham
9. “Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees” – 9
Every tree not bearing fruit is cut down & burned

II. Crowd Seeks Solution – 3:10-18

1. John suggests signs of repentance – 10-11
“Whoever has 2 tunics, share one with the one with none”
Do the same with your food
2. Tax collectors also ask – 12-13
Teacher, what shall we do?
Collect no more than you are authorized
3. Soldiers ask – 14
Don’t extort money by threats or false accusations
Be content with your wages
4. Real question is – “Are you the Christ” (Messiah)– 15
This is the real issue between John and Jesus

III. John and Jesus – 3:15-22

1. John – Are you the Christ? – 15-16
John answered immediately
“I baptize with water”
He who is mightier than I is coming,”
“the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie”
“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”
2. Here is the real difference
Water can wash clean –
changing the external appearance
Baptism with the Holy Spirit provides God’s power for internal change
Jesus provides this only after He is glorified –
John 7:37-39
When the penalty of our sin is paid Christ is seated at God’s right hand
That comes when we receive Christ as our Savior
3. When Jesus died at the cross He said – “It is finished”
The penalty of sin was paid & in Christ we are declared righteous
But this is not all that is needed to be reconciled to God
4. When God created humans He breathed on Adam –
Gen. 2:7
Adam became a “living soul” made in the image of God –
Gen. 1:26-27
Man was created with “spirit, soul and body”
5. God told Adam & Eve if they took from forbidden tree –
They would die – Gen. 2:16-17
Part that died was “Spirit” likeness & capacity for fellowship with God
We are born into this world “dead in trespasses & sins” –
Eph. 2:1-5
God has made us alive in Christ so we can fellowship with God
6. But our spirit needs to be renewed, “born again”
Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about this necessity –
Jn. 3:3,6
Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in us –
Jn. 14:16-18
This He did on the Day of Pentecost- note Acts 2:38-39
This is promised by John the Baptist – Luke 3:16-17
7. It is God’s Spirit dwelling in us that transforms us
Bringing us ultimately to “conformity to Jesus Christ” –
Rom. 8:28-29
When we see Christ that likeness will be complete –
1 Jn. 3:1-3
8. The eternal plan of God will be fulfilled
God & man dwelling together in oneness because of His Son – Lk 3:17
9. John continued to preach the Good News of Jesus –
3:19-20
Until he was put in prison by Herod
10. Jesus was baptized by John seeing God’s sign –
3:21-22
The sign was the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus at His baptism

Putting the records together they returned to Galilee
5. Note that the language now is “child” – Lk. 2:40
He had grown & became strong, filled with wisdom
“The favor of God was upon Him”

III. Return to the Temple – 2:41-52

1. His parents went to Jerusalem at the feast – 2:41
This was Feast of Passover
2. When He was 12 they went according to custom—42
He was reaching the age when boys became men
Parents began to let this happen
3. It was not until the feast ended & they were returning – 43-44
They knew that He was not with them
They were sure that He was in the group – 44
So they waited another day before they began to look for Him
4. They searched among relatives & friends – 44- 45

The Growth of Jesus Luke 2:39-52

I. Home to Galilee – 2:39

1. When they had performed requirement of the Law – 2:22-24
After birth there was a purification ceremony in the Temple
With that a sacrifice was offered to God
As Mary’s first-born He was set apart unto God
The sacrifice for this was a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons – 24
2. There were other things in the Temple – 25-38
Simeon’s blessing & prophetic words uttered by the Spirit
Thanks to God who let him live to see Messiah – 25-32
God had provided salvation for all people – Gentile & Jew
Blessing on Mary concerning what would fall on Jesus – 33-35
“Fall and rising of many in Israel”
A sword will pierce through your (Mary) own soul also
Anna’s blessing and thanks to **God** – 36-38

II. Other Things Fit in Here

1. Worship of the Magi as recorded in Matthew 2
This happened just under 2 years – based on Matt. 2:16-18
When Herod killed all babies under 2 in Bethlehem area
2. Joseph was told to go to Egypt until later – Matt. 2:13-15
To escape Herod and find safety in Egypt
3. After Herod died angel told them to return home – Matt. 2:19-23
4. This brings us back to Luke 2:39-40

After 3 days they found Him **back in Jerusalem - 46**

IV. Jesus in the Temple – 2:46-52

1. Found Him in the Temple with the teachers – 46
He was listening to them and asking them questions
As a boy approaching manhood He has a hunger for truth
2. His answers & His understanding amazed hearers – 47- 48
This included His parents who were astonished
3. His mother was also concerned – 48
As a good mother she felt he should have thought about them
Your father & I have searched for you in great distress
4. His answer indicates a growing concern in His heart – 49
He wants them to know – must be about His Father’s business (KJV) Father’s “affairs” (RSV)
Father’s House (ESV)
They did not understand what He was saying - 50

V. My Father’s Business – Ex. 12:21-28

1. This was the Feast of Passover – 12:21
When families gathered to eat the Passover Lamb
2. Taking some of the blood to put on the lintel and 2 doorposts – 22
When the death angel goes through he will pass-over that house
The first born child will be spared – 23
3. You shall observe this rite as a statute for you & your son – 24
This is to be done forever - And this is in Luke
4. When your children ask about this feast – 26
“What does it mean?” You shall explain the Lord’s Passover

Those keeping this feast “bowed their heads and worshiped”

5. Think of Jesus as He pondered this in Luke 2:46-50
He showed that He did know & understand – 46-47
He listened and asked questions about His mission as The Lamb of God
6. He was in submission to them
And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart
She was learning what God’s call was going to mean for her
7. Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature – 52
He was growing physically and spiritually
And in favor with God and man

The Birth of Jesus Christ Luke 2:1-38

I. The Time of His Birth – 2:1-5

1. Determined by the Roman Emperor – 1:1
Human ruler may give an order but God sets time and place
Bethlehem was the city of David promised Micah 5:2
2. The Human Emperor was “Caesar Augustus – 1-4
And the reason for this registration was for taxation
Each man was to register in his home town
Joseph was from the line of David
3. Joseph betrothed to Mary who was with child – 5
Not yet married—all explained by angel– Matt. 2:18-25
By command took his wife but did not have sexual relationship Until after Mary had given birth to Jesus
In fulfillment of prophet, Isaiah 7:14
4. The humble surroundings of His birth – 6-7
Wrapped in swaddling cloths & laid in a manger (feeding trough) There was no room in the inn

II. Shepherds Hear the Announcement – 2:8-14

1. In same region Shepherds watched their flock –8
Not strange David may have kept his sheep near there?
It is interesting Jesus announced himself as the Good Shepherd that keeps His sheep– John 10:11
David wrote of the Lord as “His Shepherd”-Psa. 23
2. An angel of the Lord appeared to them – 9
With a message from God and attended with
“The glory of the Lord shone around them”
Speaks of the radiant cloud that led Israel through the wilderness
And the glory cloud that dwelt in the tabernacle & in the Temple
Shepherds not only heard the message from God, they saw His glory cloud
Were filled with “great fear” (as all who saw it)
3. The angel comforted them with these words – 10-11

“Fear not, behold, I bring you good news of great Joy”
“That will be for all people”

- “For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior” “Who is Christ, the Lord”
 (“Christ” speaks of Messiah, “Lord” of our Master)
4. Angel gave a sign of where to find this baby – 12
“He is in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger”
 5. Suddenly, a multitude of heavenly host appeared–13-14
They were praising God saying:
“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth “peace”
This baby is the one who will reconcile sinful man to a holy God
“Among those with whom He is pleased”
(those who believe what God has done)
Christ will put away sin that separates us from God

III. Shepherds Go to Find Jesus – 2:15-20

1. When Angels left, the shepherds decided – 15
They agreed together to go to Bethlehem
“Let us go & see what has happened”
“Which the Lord has made known to us”
2. They went with haste & found Mary & Joseph – 16
They also found the baby “lying in a manger” as told
3. When they saw it, they spread the word – 17
Made known what was told them concerning this child
4. All wondered at what shepherds told them – 18-19
But Mary treasured all these things pondering them in her heart
5. Shepherds left, glorifying & praising God - 20
For all they heard & saw, as it had been told them
6. At end of eight days when He was circumcised - 21
He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel
Before He was conceived in the womb

IV. Presented at the Temple – 2:22-40

1. Law of Moses required His presentation – 22
Time of purification & presentation to the Lord
2. Every male who first opens the womb is called holy to the Lord
Required a sacrifice to be presented to the Lord– 23
This sacrifice is recorded in Exodus 13:12-13
Lev. 12:8 allowed couples who could not bring an animal to bring
“A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons” - 24
3. Man named Simeon met them in the Temple–25-26
He was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel (Which was the Messiah)
the Holy Spirit was on Simeon
It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw The Lord’s Christ (Messiah)
4. In the Spirit He came into the Temple – 27-28
When Jesus was brought in by His parents
Simeon took Him into his arms & blessed God saying: -
He blessed God for leaving him on earth before he saw: God’s salvation, prepared for all people

A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel

5. His father & mother marveled at what he said about Him – 33
Simeon blessed them & told Mary what was ahead for her – 34-35
“This child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel”
“And for a sign that is opposed so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed”
He also told Mary “a sword will pierce through your own soul also”
6. Anna, prophetess, advanced in years was there—36-38
She lived with her husband 7 yrs. Was a widow 84 yrs.
She stayed in the Temple worshipping & fasting.
Praying night & day thanking God & speaking of His redemption of Jerusalem to those waiting

Birth of John Luke 1:57-80

- I. His Birth Caused a Stir – Lk. 1:57-66
 1. Time came for Elizabeth to give birth – 57
Angel's promise came to pass, a son was born
 2. There was great joy among the neighbors – 58
Neighbors & relatives heard of God's blessing
He had great mercy on barren Elizabeth & they rejoiced
 3. On eighth day of John's life they came to circumcise him – 59
This meant giving him a name
Those gathered would have called him Zechariah after his father
But Elizabeth answered – No, he shall be called John – 60
They said, None of your relatives is called by this name – 61
 4. They turned to his father, what did he want – 62-63
They made signs to his father
He asked for a writing tablet & wrote
His name is John, leaving those wondering – 63
 5. Immediately his mouth was opened – 64
His tongue was loosed & he spoke, Blessing God
Fear came upon all of the neighbors – 65
All this was talked about through the hill country of Judea
 6. All who heard them laid them up in their hearts– 66
Saying, what will this child be

for the hand of the Lord is with him

- II. His Father Prophesied – Lk. 1:67-80
 1. Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke – 67
 2. He blessed the Lord God of Israel – 68-69
“For He has visited and redeemed His people”
“And has raised up a horn of salvation for us”
“In the house of His servant David”
This blessing is announced by John
but it is fulfilled by God's Son, Jesus
It is Jesus who is of the line of David
John was in the line of Levi – the Priest
 3. God's prophets spoke of victory for Israel—70-71
God would fight for His people and deliver them from enemies
He would deliver from the hand of all who hate Israel
 4. This commitment is bound by His covenants – 72-73
“To show the mercy promised to our fathers”
“The oath He swore to our father Abraham”
“That we would be delivered from the hand of our enemies”
 5. “So that we might serve Him without fear” – 74-75
“In holiness and righteousness before Him, all our days”
God has promised those who serve Him to be Under His care

6. His prophetic words now speak to his son, John—76-79
“And you child, will be called the prophet of the Most High”
“For you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways”
“To give knowledge of salvation to His people”
“in the forgiveness of their sins”
“Because of the tender mercy of our God”
“Whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high”
“To give light to those who sit in darkness”
“And in the shadow of death”
“To guide our feet into the way of peace”
7. What a challenge from John's father
And what a blessing to his father as he lived it out – 80
“The child grew and became strong in spirit”
“He was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel”

III. Fulfillment of Zechariah's Prophecy – Jn. 1:1-34

1. Apostle John introduces Jesus to us – 1:1-5
Jesus is the Creator & He is the light of the world
2. God introduced His Son by witness of John the Baptist – 1:6-8
This John was not the light but sent to witness to the light (Jesus)
3. This true light was rejected by the world – 9-10
He was even rejected by His own people (Jews) – 11
But to those who did receive Him - He was the light

– 12-13

And this light brought them into God's family

Jesus became a man to reveal light of God's grace
& truth – 14

4. John came to bear witness to this light (Jesus) – 15

John says, "He came after me but is truly before me"

– 16-18

He came to reveal God to us & to unveil God's grace

5. John tried to explain this to Jewish leaders – 19-23

He was not the Christ (Messiah), Elijah or The Prophet

He was just a voice crying in the wilderness

"Prepare the way of the Lord" as Isaiah said

They ask, why then are you baptizing? – 24-28

"I baptize with water" signifying you need to be clean

One coming after me, I am not worthy to untie His
sandal

6. Next day He saw Jesus, declaring – 29

"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of
the world"

John said, this is He of whom I have spoken

God gave John a sign to prove He is The Christ – 30-34

When he baptized Jesus a dove would remain on Him

This represented the Holy Spirit **proving** Jesus is the
Son of God

God gave John this as a sign - 33