

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ **John the Baptist Announces the Messiah**

Last time...the reaction to the message and John's teaching in response to

1. Pharisees and Sadducees
2. the common folk
3. publicans
4. soldiers

This time...John the Baptist announces the Messiah

Luke 3:15-18 (also Matt 3:11-12 and Mark 1:7-8)

v15-18

v15 the people were in expectation...mused:

Like the entire nation, the people/multitude at the Jordan River with John
were in a great expectation or anticipation of the Messiah

Given

- the cultural war of Hellenization
 - language...of “strangers”
(albeit as precise a language as Hebrew)
 - celebration of the human body vs
modesty and celebration of the beauty of God
 - grand/ornate structures and exaltation of beauty and power vs
simple humble living
 - philosophy of man vs Word of God
- the oppression of the cruelest of empires (Roman)
- silence from God for 400 years

the nation was primed for their promised Messiah

Now, this man named John with a new “ritual” and bold teaching bursts on the scene

And they are wondering, deliberating in their minds

(not out loud, not in a public debate forum): “Is this the Messiah?!”

Their belief about the Messiah ekes out in their musing:

The Messiah/Christ is a man...not the LORD Himself

v16 one mightier than I...not worthy...baptize:

Who knows the hearts, thoughts, and motives of man?

God, the Creator of man

God the Holy Spirit tells John what the people are thinking about him and prompts John to respond to their unasked question

“I baptize you with water (here in the Jordan River)...

Matt 3:11 unto repentance (required to be forgiven by God)

but One mightier than I is coming...

John is the voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way for...
the LORD, the Messiah/Savior (Is 40:3, v4 above)

I am not worthy, I am unfit, to untie the straps of His sandals.

Mark 1:7 stoop down and loosen His sandals

Matt 3:11 to bear/carry His sandals

All of these tasks were given to the lowest servant in the house
(the point Jesus would later make in John 13 when He would wash
the feet of His disciples as an example to them/us)

John is expressing his humility – he is not worthy of being the lowest
servant in attendance of the Messiah, the LORD

He (the mightier one, the Messiah) will baptize you with

1. The Holy Ghost

The Spirit of God, God the Holy Spirit

Not a new/NT teaching

Prov 1:22-23 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?
and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools
hate knowledge? Turn you at My reproof: behold, I
will pour out My spirit unto you, I will make known
My words unto you.

Is 44:1-3 Yet now hear, O Jacob My servant; and Israel,
whom I have chosen: Thus saith the LORD that
made thee, and formed thee from the womb, *which*
will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, My servant; and
thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour
water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the
dry ground: I will pour My spirit upon thy seed, and
My blessing upon thine offspring:

Joel 2:28-32 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Q: Who but God could baptize a person with God?
All men are sinners, have fallen short of the glory of God
None are righteous, no not one
Only God could baptize with God

The coming Messiah is...God

2. fire

Mal 3:2 But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appears? for He is like a refiner's fire

Judgment and vengeance

Judgment belong to Whom?

Ps 7:8	The LORD shall judge the people
Ps 50:6	God is judge Himself
Ps 75:7	God is the judge: he puts down one, and sets up another.
Ps 96:13	(the LORD) for He comes to judge the earth with righteousness, and the people with His truth

Vengeance belongs to Whom?

Deut 32:35a	To Me belongs vengeance, and recompense
Deut 32:43	He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will render vengeance to His adversaries
Ps 94:1	LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs

The coming Messiah is...God

Q: Is the baptism of the Messiah one or two?
Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit also the baptism of fire?
Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit different than the baptism of fire?

When did Jesus baptize with the Holy Ghost?
After His 1st Coming as the Suffering Servant of God
Acts 2, Pentecost, birth of His Bride, Joel 2 (Part 1)

When is Jesus baptizing with the Holy Ghost?
To this very day, Joel (Part 1)

When will Jesus baptize with the Holy Ghost?
After the snatching of His Bride, upon Israel, Joel 2 (Part 2)

When will Jesus baptize with fire/vengeance/judgment?
At the end of an unbelievers' life, after his/her last breath
Heb 9:27-28
At the end of the times of the Gentiles, at His 2nd Coming as the
glorious King of kings and Judge of all the earth,
Rev 19-20

Therefore, the baptisms of the Holy Spirit and of fire are two different
baptisms of Jesus...one unto eternal life, one unto eternal death

v17 fan...wheat...chaff:

With 2 different baptisms to separate life from death, the mightier one to come:

- has in His hand the fan
 - wooden winnowing fork/shovel
 - used to toss ox-trodden grain into the air
- is at His floor
 - threshing floor
 - elevated, open space without walls or covering
 - the ox-trodden harvest is tossed into the air
 - heavier grain falls back at His feet
 - the worthless chaff is carried away downwind
- at the time of His harvest
 - wheat is gathered into His barn
 - the chaff is gathered and burned with perpetual fire...
eternal punishment
 - hell
 - Lake of Fire

- the harvest is His separation
 - the righteous from the wicked
 - the living from the dead
 - wheat from the tares (difference: humility vs pride)
 - wheat from the chaff

John the Baptist's announcement of the Messiah, the one mightier than he, is recorded in

- Matt – written to the Jews (Jesus is King)
- Mark and Luke – written to the Gentiles (Jesus is Servant and Man)

Both the invitation to eternal life from the Messiah and the warning of judgment of eternal death by the Messiah are issued to...all Adam's race

- all fall short of the glory of God
- all are sinners
- none has an excuse

v18 many other things:

John prepared the way for the Messiah

- encouragement to get right with God, to receive His invitation to Life
- warning of judgment of death if reject His invitation

Who is this

- mightier than I that is coming
- Messiah
- Savior of the world

John 1:1-18

The Gospel of John was written about 30 years after the Synoptic Gospels
It was recorded by the Apostle John, the audience being the Church

The purpose of the Holy Spirit in writing this Gospel was to reprove Gnosticism...

- the exaltation of knowledge...man's
- the rise of an intellectual elite to lord over the uneducated common
- the root of RCC and Calvinism

The Gospel of John is God's antibiotic for the Gnostic infection in the Body of Christ

(we could spend several weeks in this passage...but to focus on the message for this week...)

v1-2 In the beginning...the Word:
Same opening as Gen 1:1

The Word...

- *Memra* (from the Hebrew Targum paraphrase)
- *Logos* (Greek Septuagint)
 - the instrument of God's creative work
 - the wisdom of God
 - announces and interprets the will of God to man
 - mediator between God and man
- Now, in the Gospel of John, 1 John, Revelation
 - 2nd Person in the Godhead
 - the image of God, full of grace and truth
 - Jesus Christ

In the beginning...

- was the Word...
 - existed before the creation of time (a dimension of the creation)
 - was Self-existing, not created
- The Word was with God
 - co-existent with God...linked to
 - separate from but in intimate fellowship with
- The Word was God (and is and forever shall be)
 - the same nature as God
 - 100% God
- The Word is NOT
 - a created being
 - an inanimate object

v3 All things were made by him:

First, we notice the Word is "Him"...a Person

Secondly we noticed that the Word, this Person, is the Creator...

- of ALL things
- every step of the way in the creation account (Days 1-7)

Who is the Creator?

God

Who is the Word?

God

v4 In him was life...light:

1 John 1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life

1 John 1:5

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 5:11-12

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life

Adam and Eve, created in the image of God, were clothed in...light/life
When Adam and Eve sinned against God (darkness)...death came and the light went out and they saw that they were naked/ashamed

Since

The Word = Life

The Word = Light

The Word = God

God = Spirit (John 4:24)

Then (man's)

Life (and death) = spiritual

Light (and darkness) = spiritual

v5 light shineth...darkness comprehended it not:

The Light/Life/Word/Person/God appeared to those “dimmed” or “obscured”
(in death by sin)...

but He was not received/possessed/seized...He was rejected

v6-8 man sent from God:

God sent a man, a descendant of Adam and Eve, to bear witness of the
Light/Life/Word/Person/God...this man was John the Baptist

John bore witness of the Light of the world that whosoever would trust in the
Light might believe and be rescued from the darkness

- The Light would do all the work
- those in darkness would have to choose to come to the Light
 - an invitation from God, not an imposition by God
 - a choice of man, not a forced march by God
- the difference between life/light and death/darkness: believe in Jesus

But John was NOT the Light/Life/Word/Person/God

Luke 3:15 answered

v9 the true light:

John the Baptist bore witness of the True Light...which means

- there is a false light, a deceiver with a false message
 - 2 Cor 11:1-4, 12-15
 - 2 Cor 4:1-4
- those in darkness must make a choice to believe/trust a light...
 - True Light: message calling all men to
 - convicted of sin
 - repent of sin
 - humble Self before God...
 - come out of darkness to the Light
 - receive a new, soft heart and eternal life
 - false light: message to men saying
 - no conviction or repentance needed
 - you are a good person
 - no change needed (heart remains unbroken/proud/hard)
 - no judgment, no hell
 - be “enlightened” (remain blinded in darkness by the false light)
- all people go to heaven...no matter what they believe or how they live
- God is in everything and everything is in God (vs above, transcendent of His creation)
- the god of the Muslims is the God of Christians and Jews

v10 He was in the world:

The Word that created the world came into the world...

but the world engulfed in and blinded by darkness rejected Him

v11 He came unto His own:

The Word that created a people unto Himself (Is 43:1) came to them...

but they rejected Him

- did not trust Him
- did not believe His Word
- did not open their hearts to His invitation unto Light and Life

v12-13 But as many as received Him:

But – a contrast to the previous (wicked)

All, whosoever, receives/believes/trusts Him, the Word/True Light,
are given by Him the power of God to become the children of God

power of God: resurrection, the dead raised to life, born-again

This new birth from death into life

- is not natural...from life to death is natural
- is not of the flesh...which is powerless and anti-Christ
- is not by the power of man...some “super” fertility drug
- is only by the work of God...a spiritual birth by Him Who is Spirit (John 4:24, 2 Cor 5:17)

v14 the Word was made flesh:

The Word/Light/Life/Person/God **became** man...what He was not prior

Man can never become God but the almighty God can become man...
or He is not almighty

The Word/Light/Life/Person/God who became man of Whom John the Baptist
bore witness is: the only begotten of the Father

Note: “begotten” is of the Father (not mother)
“bore” is of the mother, not the father

The Son “of” (*para*, “from”) the Father
(became the Son of/from the mother...Gen 3:15)

A very important and unique phrase/title spoken 5x, solely in reference to
Jesus Christ

John 1:14 regarding the Word in John 1:1-3

John 1:18

John 3:16

John 3:18

1 John 4:9

“only begotten” Son is a foundational truth of the inspired Word of God

Please listen very carefully...please do not leave today without understanding the
gist of what I am about to say regarding “the only Begotten of the Father”

Monogenes in the original God-breathed Greek denotes "only begotten", "unique"

Monotheism connotes one unique God

Monosyllable means a word of one syllable

Monogenes means one unique genesis...translated *only begotten*.

Does **not** mean

- simply "one"
- "one and only"

Does mean:

- unique relationship with the Father
- sole representative of the Being and character of the One Who sent Him
- possesses every attribute and character of the One Who sent Him, which necessitates eternal (Is 57:15)
- an unoriginated relationship, an eternal union with the Father, vastly different than generation as applied to man
- a fact irrespective of time...Jesus **is** vs **became** the Son of God, from before the first day to after the last day
- Jesus did not become the Son of God by the Incarnation (an event in time)
 - He has always been the Begotten Son of God
 - He became the Son of Man by the Incarnation

Although Christ is frequently called the Son, or Son of God, He is never (in Greek original) called the "only" (*monos*) Son of God.

To call Him the "only" Son of God would make the Bible contradict itself, for He is not the "only" Son of God, and not the "one and only" Son of God.

- Angels are called the sons of God (e.g., Job 38:7) since they had no fathers, being directly created by God.
- fallen angels (Genesis 6:2), and even Satan (Job 1:6, Ezk 28), also were directly created beings.
- Adam was called the son of God (Luke 3:38), because he was directly created by God
- regenerate men who have become "new creations" in Christ by faith (John 1:12, 2Cor 5:17; Eph 2:10; 1John 3:2) by special creation and adoption, not physically but spiritually.

Jesus Christ is not a *created* son of God (as the Jehovah's Witnesses and other cultists teach), but the *begotten* Son (unique relationship) of God – the *only begotten* Son of God.

He never had a beginning, for He was there in the beginning of creation

NIV, ESV, RSV, NLT, HCSB, Message (yikes!), NWT (yikes!) do not say “the only begotten” but say “one” or “one and only”

Did those Greek scholars “fumble” and translate *monogenes* as they do *monos*?
What is the difference between English translations? Their Greek source

“Received Text” (Textus Receptus, the majority/>95% texts) used by

- Erasmus, Dutch scholar, Greek-Latin NT
- Protestant Reformation (*Sola Scriptura*)
- KJV translators

Manuscript from Antioch, Syria...center of early Church
(Acts 11:26)

Texts agree...God preserved His Word with these scholars

vs

“Critical texts” of Wescott and Hort (1881)

Alexandrian manuscripts (Minority/<5%- texts) used by

- Origen (apostate unbeliever, source of heretical doctrine leading to RCC dogma)
- RCC “counter-Reformation”
- Higher Criticism

Alexandria, Egypt...center of Greek language, culture, philosophy

“Scholars” “improved” the Received Text, making “corrections”
and in so doing produced corrupted texts

i.e. man translated Scripture

As we might expect, the various texts often contradict each other

The two translations...

”Received Text” by Reformers (reaction to apostasy in Church of Rome)

“Critical Texts” by higher critics/humanists/Gnostics Wescott and Hort

used different

- manuscripts
- textual translation principles
 - formal equivalence:
 - prime objective: true to original language
 - word-for-word translation
 - dynamic equivalence:
 - prime objective: “greater readability”
 - thought-for-thought translation

and produced different results

One such result that is radically different: the translation of *monogenes*
Received Text (KJV): “only begotten”
Critical texts (modern English): “one”/“one and only” (just like *monos*)
Such poor...or deceptive...translation of *monogenes* has produced modern
English translations that dilute the nature and deity of Jesus Christ,
the very foundation of our faith

Wescott and Hort were motivated by their disdain of KJV
(perhaps its impact on the English-speaking world)
as an inferior translation and therefore needed to be replaced by a better
translation from “better texts”...that were found in

- a trashcan in a seminary in the Egyptian Sinai (*Sinaiticus*)
- the Vatican library (*Vaticanus*)

Wescott and Hort both

- denied the infallibility of the Word of God
- denied salvation by the substitutionary atonement of Jesus, believing instead in salvation by works, including baptism and church membership
- supported the return of the Church of England to Rome
- praised Darwin for his theory of evolution

Wescott and Hort are to original manuscript translation into English as
Charles Darwin is to the creation account

Where did the Gnostics attack the Word of God?
In the recordings of John, the God’s antibodies to the Gnostic infection

The devil knows Scripture, twists Scripture, sows confusion and doubt.
He, a liar and the father of lies, will use any misunderstanding or misconception
about the nature of Jesus Christ (his Creator!) to sow seeds of heresy
(tares) where the Word (wheat) is being handled

“It doesn’t matter what Bible you read” is a false message from the false light
It VERY much matters what English translation you read and study!
Sound advice: “Consider the source”

I read and study the English translation of the uncorrupted text, the
Textus Receptus: KJV

I reject the corrupt foundation of Wescott and Hort...
NIV, NASB, ESV, NLT, RSV, HCSB, Message, NWT (!)

Back to the only begotten of the Father...He is full of grace and truth
The false light is full of condemnation and lies

v15 preferred before me...was before me:

John the Baptist faithfully bore witness of the

Word/Light/Life/Person/God/Messiah that was

- from everlasting/eternity/"the vanishing point" (Micah 5:2)
- before him in time...because He existed before time,
- after him...because He became man, was born 6 months after him

Jesus came after John...

- in the created dimension of time
- was born 6 months after John was

but was before John

- before time and outside of time, in eternity
- is preferred before = before John came into being

because Jesus is "before"

- pre-eminent, of foremost in order and importance
- Col 1:15-18

v16-17 all we received:

Recorded by the Apostle John, these inspired words written to the Bride of Christ say we true believers have received the fullness of the grace and truth of the Word/Light/Life/Person/God/Messiah...named Jesus Christ

Nothing of God's grace and truth has been withheld from us!

v18 No man hath seen God...declared Him:

No man...starting from Adam...has seen God with the eyes in his head
John 4:24

But the only begotten Son...Jesus Christ, God the Son...
has revealed/displayed God the Father to us
John 14:8-9

So Who is this “mightier than I is coming” spoken by John the Baptist?

1. The Word
2. The True Light
3. Life
4. God
5. The only Begotten of the Father
6. Messiah, the Savior of Israel and the entire world
7. Jesus Christ

Do you know Him?

Do you want to meet Him, even though you are not worthy/fit to untie the strap of His sandals?

Everybody keep your head down

If you want to meet Jesus and know Jesus and follow Jesus...

look Him in the eye and say so

Look up and look at me, until we make eye contact

You are not looking me in the eye, you are looking God in the eye –

I am just a believer/follower called by God to lead this fellowship by
following Him and preaching/teaching Him

Do you want to be witness of Jesus like John the Baptist was?

You need the baptism of Jesus...of the Holy Spirit

Look God in the eye and tell Him...look up until we make eye contact