

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

Last time...John the Baptist announced the Messiah

This time...John the Baptist baptizes Jesus

#### **Mark 1:9-11**

v9-10 Jesus came...was baptized:

John the Baptist is at the River Jordan calling the people

- to repentance...to God
- not to armed resistance...against Rome

His message is heavenly, not earthly...eternal, not temporal

His heart is humble, not prideful...insisting he was not even worthy of the lowest service the Messiah, the one mightier than he Who is coming

He is not a respecter of persons – all are given the call to repentance and the warning of not heeding the call

He is not ambitious or self-seeking, seeking nothing for himself

He is pointing the people away from himself and to the Messiah

To this servant of God comes Jesus, The Servant of God (Is 42)...to be baptized

This is the first we have read of Jesus in 18 years

This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry...His "coming out" as baptism is our "coming out"

As soon as Jesus came out of the water (complete immersion), He saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit like a dove descended upon Him

What has happened to start the ministry of Jesus Christ?

1. John's baptism (v4b, v8a)
2. Jesus' baptism (v8b)

The baptism(s) of Jesus took place at the lower Jordan River, near

- Jericho, whose walls the Lord had pushed down
- where the Jordan feeds in to the Salt Sea (it is NOT dead!)
- the Lord parted the Jordan River for Israel's conquest of the Promised Land
- (on the other side) Mount Nebo, where God showed Moses the Promised Land and buried him

[ Photos: Jericho, Mt Nebo ]

v11 a voice from heaven:

When both baptisms are accomplished, the Father speaks from heaven to...  
His Son

“You are My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased.”

The Father approves of

- the only begotten Son of the Father...
- the Servant of God

Is 42:1 Behold my Servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom*  
My soul delighteth; I have put My spirit upon Him:  
He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Is 42:21 The LORD is well pleased for His (context: Servant)  
righteousness' sake; He will magnify the law, and make *it*  
honorable.

Who is present in this passage?

1. God the Father
2. God the Son
3. God the Holy Spirit

Does the word “trinity” appear?

No

Does that make the doctrine of the Trinity a false doctrine?

No

Scripture reveals the Godhead of the God of AI&J

Do you believe Scripture or your own understanding?

### Luke 3:21-23

v21-22 when all the people were baptized...praying:

Jesus came to John to be baptized with the baptism of water...how?

Jesus did not hurry to be 1<sup>st</sup> in line...He made no haste whatsoever

Nor was Jesus the last person John baptized (John 4:1)

Jesus did not arrive with pomp, demanding special treatment by or  
a private audience with John

Jesus did not hide in a corner, He was baptized in full view of whosoever  
was there

Jesus was baptized...at the perfect time

After He was baptized...during which He was praying...the sky opened and the  
Holy Ghost in the bodily form of a dove descended upon Jesus.

And the Father, again speaking to the Son...answered Jesus' prayer

What did Jesus pray?

- "Let the words of My mouth, and the meditation of My heart,  
be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD." (Ps 19:14) ?
- "My Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom  
come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." ?
- "Not My will be done but Your will be done." ?
- "Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy  
will, O God." (Heb 10:7) ?

v23 thirty years old:

Luke the historian gives us the timestamp for the beginning of Jesus' public  
ministry: 30 years old

Gen 41:46

Joseph was 30 years old when he became 2<sup>nd</sup> to Pharaoh

Num 4

The priests (mediator between man and God) were allowed to begin their  
service at age 30

2 Sam 5:4

David began his reign as king of Israel at age 30

It was supposed by human reasoning that Jesus was the son of Joseph...

He was not

Joseph was the husband of Mary and the son-in-law of Heli

Mary, of the line of David thru a non-royal line (v31)

Luke, presenting Jesus as the Son of Man, takes the genealogy back to...Adam

The only begotten Son of God...as the Servant of God...became the Son of Man  
to redeem/rescue fallen man, Adam's race

### Matt 3:13-17

v13-14 John forbade Him:

In Matthew's account, presenting Jesus as the Son of David, the King of Israel, the Holy Spirit adds this pre-baptism conversation between John and Jesus

Jesus came to John to be baptized with water unto repentance (v11a)

John reverently, respectfully declines...hindered, resisted Jesus' request

"You do not need v11a, certainly not by me for v11b.

I need v11c."

Given Luke 1,

- birth announcement of John the Baptist by Gabriel to Zacharias
- birth announcement of Jesus by Gabriel to Mary
- Elizabeth and Mary being cousins
- Mary going to help the elderly Elizabeth in her 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester
- Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Ghost, greeting Mary as "the mother of my Lord"
- Mary's magnifying of the Lord, her God and Savior

can we assume

- Mary and Elizabeth would also spend time together after their sons were born ?
- John and Jesus knew each other as boys?
- John would know Who Jesus' "real" Father was?

Such assumptions would explain John's hesitance

So John's resistance begs the question: Why did Jesus go to John to be baptized with water unto the repentance of sin?

After all, Jesus was sinless, He had no sin of which to confess and repent.

v15 it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness:

Jesus' answer is very simple and to the point.

"Yield your will, forsake your own understanding.

It is proper and fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

Gen 15:6 Abraham believed and it was counted (1<sup>st</sup> appearance)

Deut 6:24-25 to obey the Word is for our good, to preserve us,  
is our righteousness

Ps 11:7a the righteous Lord loves righteousness

Is 42:21 The Lord is well pleased with righteousness

But...

Is 64:6            our righteousness is...because Jer 17:9, Rom 7:18

So...

Ps 23:1-3        The Lord my Shepherd leads me in paths of righteousness

Ps 24:3-5        Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

For man to be righteous before and pleasing to God,

- man must believe/trust in the Messiah and His righteousness
- the Messiah must give God's righteousness to man
- the Messiah must fulfill all righteousness

John "sees the Light" and without further hesitation or objection baptizes Jesus with water...not for repentance of sin but

- a baptism of God, not man (Matt 21:25)
- a consecration to the work for which the Father sent Him, which He will finish completely, leaving nothing undone... from the very beginning to the very end
- an act of submissive obedience to the will of the Father  
submissive obedience to the will of the Father has no ulterior motive
- a deliberate beginning to be about His Father's business, founded on humility and surrender as the faithful Servant of God
- "a thing of beauty" for nothing is more beautiful in the Father's eyes than humility  
Jesus led and taught by example, not by dictate or by management
- to fulfill all righteousness (Scripture)...which means even more than "meets the eye" in this passage:

Righteousness to be fulfilled:

The Rightful King and the rightful priest

Come with me on a survey of history of God's chosen people that leads to the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist

During the times of Jewish kings, the High Priest was to anoint the king

But, before there were Jewish kings, God cursed Eli's line of priests

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1 Sam 2:11-12 | his sons were sons of Belial, knew not the Lord   |
| 1 Sam 2:17    | their sin before the Lord was very great  |
| 1 Sam 2:27-35 | Eli was warned: he honored his sons above the Lord<br>God tells Eli He is going to raise up a faithful priest<br>that will do as is in God's heart and mind |
| 1 Sam 3:11-14 | God tells little Samuel He is going to tingle the<br>people's ears, judge Eli and his sons, purge<br>them from the priesthood                               |

Fast Forward...David is king, old and near the end of his reign/life

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1 K 1:5-7 | Adonijah conspires to take the throne...<br>a counterfeit/usurper because Solomon<br>is the rightful heir and king<br>One of Adonijah's co-conspirators was Abiathar the<br>priest of the line of Eli, the cursed line |
|-----------|--|

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1 K 1:32-40 | David sends Nathan the prophet of God and Zadok<br>the priest of God...also of Aaron but from a<br>different line than Eli...to anoint Solomon,<br>the rightful king |
|-------------|--|

1 Sam 21:1-9, 1 Sam 22:6-23,  
2 Sam 8:16-17, 2 Sam 20:25  
1 K 1:8, 23-24  
Num 25:1-13  
Ezra 7:1-5  
1 Chron 6:1-15  
1 Chron 24:1-3

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1 K 2:26-27 | Solomon expels Abiathar, fulfilling the Word of the<br>Lord spoken to Eli 150 years earlier |
|-------------|---|

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 1 K 2:35 | Solomon the rightful king puts the faithful/rightful<br>priest Zadok in place |
|----------|---|

Fast Forward...Divided Kingdom then Babylonian captivity  
(times of Gentile kings...Persian) and time to return to the land

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Ezra 3:1-2 | The remnant is led by Zerubbabel and Jeshua the<br>priest...of the line of Zadok |
|------------|--|

Fast Forward...still in the times of Gentile kings...a power vacuum exists  
between the Greek and Roman Empires...into which steps a group of Jews  
called the Hasmoneans...priests of the tribe of Aaron

- but not the line of Zadok
- certainly not the tribe of Judah and the line of David

To establish their power, they combined 2 offices into 1 office

- King
- High Priest

An abomination according to the Word of God because those offices only  
are consolidated in the Lord Jesus Christ

- King
- Priest
- Prophet

The Hasmoneans murdered the High Priest from the line of Zadok...  
usurped of the rightful line

The line of Zadok fled from defiled Jerusalem to the deserts outside  
Damascus...and to Qumran (near Jericho)...

Among the Essenes...a sect of Judaism that rejected the corrupt and false  
priesthood in Jerusalem and lived a pure life away...holy/separate

From the Hasmoneans came the Sadducees and the Pharisees  
With all their learning, Pharisees overshadowed...pushed aside...  
the priests and the prophets as the religious leaders of Israel  
They were usurpers...counterfeits...false shepherds

Fast Forward...a righteous priest from the line of Zadok, Zacharias, is told he  
will beget a son in his old age...John the Baptist  
1 Chron 24:3-4, 10  
Luke 1:5-17

While Zacharias faithfully serves in the Temple, John is sent out into the  
desert to be raised...among the Essenes?  
Luke 1:76-80

In the fullness of time, Is 7:14 is fulfilled – the birth of

- The promised Seed of the Woman
- The Messiah
- I AM (Is 9:6)
- The Word became flesh
- The only Begotten Son, the Servant of God, became the Son of Man

The King (Messiah) is God's anointed (Ps 2)

In these passages, the Rightful King is anointed by the rightful priest...  
Jesus, the Son of David, was baptized/anointed by John the Baptist,  
the son of Zadok  
to fulfill all righteousness

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem...the usurpers take great issue with

- The rightful priest...John the Baptist
- The Rightful King...Jesus Christ

v16-17 This is My beloved Son:

As recorded in Mark and Luke...but to whom is the Father speaking in this account?

NOT His Son, but is speaking of His Son

To whosoever had ears to hear?

Acts 9:1-7                      heard a voice but saw no man

To John the Baptist?

John 12:27-29                  heard “thunder” or an angel

Why did God the Father need to so testify to John the Baptist, given the

- assumption that John and Jesus knew each other?
- the survey of history he may have taught by his father?

Where had John been for some number of years now?

Out in the wilderness, away from the spiritual corruption in Jerusalem

People change as they mature from teens and 20s to 30s

(just check out FB pages for people you last saw 15-25 yrs ago!)

This would explain John 1:19-34 (v29-34 is after Jesus' baptism)

The Father testifies Personally that His only begotten Son is the Christ

John did not reveal Jesus to the people, the Father revealed Jesus to John  
and Jesus revealed Himself Personally to the people

John did not give Jesus His message, the Father gave Jesus His message



The baptism of Jesus

God the Father sent His King, His only begotten Son (Ps 2)

Humiliated, setting aside His glory (Phil 2:5-11, Is 53:1-3)

Not to set up His Kingdom and to reign as King of kings

But to destroy the god of this world (Gen 3:15, 2 Cor 4:3-4, Heb 2:14-15)

To reveal the Light to the darkness

To set the captives free, making possible a way home for all who would trust in  
His righteousness

It must needs be that Jesus Christ suffer to do what the Father sent Him to do

(Gen 22, Ps 22, Is 53, Dan 9:24-27)

The start of His ministry is a very humbling start...and the Rightful King

- humbled Himself before God and man
- was anointed by the rightful priest

So...Matt 5:17-18 by the only begotten Son of the Father in Whom the Father is well-pleased

Do you want the approval of the heavenly Father?

There is only One Way – Jesus Christ

John 14:6

1 Cor 1:30

To be pleasing to the Father we must be in Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus must be in us

His way is a narrow path that leads to eternal life

Man's/our way is a broad path that leads to eternal death

Do not despise the chastening/education/training of the Father (Heb 12:5-13)

Motives count and will be revealed

Ambition and self-serving will be fruitless and will be shamed

Human plans and human reasoning will fail

Humble yourself before God...or be humbled by God

Do not hide your humiliation just as Jesus did not

Pray like Jesus prayed from a heart in which Jesus the Humble King reigns

Then go live a life pleasing to the Father

Our message is heavenly, not earthly

Our hearts are to be humble, not prideful...insisting we was not even worthy of  
the lowest service the Messiah

We are not to be respecters of persons

We are not to be ambitious or self-seeking, seeking nothing for ourselves...  
submissive obedience to the will of the Father has no ulterior motive

We are to point the people away from ourselves and to the Messiah

As we have now begun the public ministry of Jesus Christ, I encourage all of us to be  
better students –

- how we think, act, speak
- God's Learning cycle: Hear, believe, do, understand