

(1) Jesus Baptized (Matt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-23; Jn. 1:29-34)

(Truths About John the Baptist: Matt. 3:1-12; Mk. 1:1-8; Lk. 3:1-20; Jn. 1:19-28)

1. John the Baptist undertook a wilderness preaching ministry as the Herald of the Christ (Matt. 3:1-6).
 - a. His proclamation: “repent” (change your thinking) “for the Kingdom of Heaven has drawn near” (Matt. 3:2).
 - b. John’s clothing and diet were reminiscent of Elijah (Matt. 3:4; 11:8; 2nd Kgs. 1:8).
 - c. John enjoyed unparalleled response to his preaching, as great multitudes came out of Jerusalem, Judea and the Jordan region in order to be baptized (Matt. 3:5,6).
 - 1) Judaism’s baptism ritual of Gentile proselytes likely followed 70AD and bears no influence upon John’s baptism.
 - 2) The Qumran records of the Essenes do precede John’s activity, but their rites bear little resemblance to John’s mission.
2. When the religious/political leaders came to participate in the baptism ritual, John confronted them like Elijah before the prophets of Baal (Matt. 3:7-10).
3. John the Baptist understood that his ministry was temporary, and the One Who was Coming would perform a greater baptism (Matt. 3:11,12; Mal. 3:2,3; Joel 2:28,29).
4. The Herald fulfilled his purpose when the Christ appeared (Matt. 3:13-17).
 - a. Jesus Christ was sinless and perfect. He had no need to be baptized as a visible sign of His repentance. He did so anyway, in order to identify with His brethren (Isa. 53:12).
 - b. The Holy Spirit and God the Father testified to His Sonship (Matt. 3:16,17; Isa. 42:1).
 - c. John the Baptist continually exalted the Coming One, and denied any greatness for himself (Jn. 1:19-34; 3:22-36).
5. This unique baptism event was the public anointing of the Christ and marked the beginning of His earthly ministry (Isa. 61:1). In the Old Testament, the following offices were anointed:
 - a. Prophets (1st Kgs. 19:16).
 - b. Priests (Ex. 28:41).
 - c. Kings (1st Sam. 9:16; 16:3,12-13; 2nd Sam. 2:4; 5:3).