

JOHN'S BAPTISM OF JESUS

We begin a new series of Wednesday lessons during the month of November entitled, Baptisms of Jesus. We will study four baptisms of Jesus: Jesus' baptism of John Baptist; Jesus' baptisms of death; Jesus' baptism of Holy Spirit; and Jesus' baptism of fire.

These four baptisms of Jesus will cover the period from the First Advent to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

We will study three aspects of John's Baptism of Jesus recorded in our lesson text.
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Note where it takes place (Jn.1:28).

1. Our lesson text opens with John the Baptist's (JB) water baptism of Jesus.

We are told that the Pharisees and Sadducees sent their priests and Levites to get answers to seven questions (Jn.1:19, 21 (3x), 22 (2x), and (25).

(Jn.1:20-21) "I am not Christ or Elijah or The Prophet" – "What do you say about yourself?"

John answered the first six questions by quoting **Isa.40:3**.

(Jn.1:23) "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight (euthano/ a.a.impv) the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

John is declaring himself to be a national prophet to Israel after 400 years of prophetic silence.

John answered the seventh question in (Jn.1:25-27).

The background to John's statement is Gabriel's prophetic to Zacharias regarding birth of JB (Luke 1:11-17) and Zacharias prophesy at circumcision ceremony of JB (Luke 1:76-79).

Notice our lesson text **opens** in (Jn.1:19) – "This is the **testimony (marturia)** of John;" and how it **closes** in (Jn.1:34) – "I myself have seen (horoa/ perf.a. Ind), and have testified (martureo/ perf.a.ind) that this is the Son of God."

2. John will give four prophetic testimonies to Israel identifying Jesus as Israel's Messiah in our lesson text.

- **1st testimony of John** confessed (homologeo/ a.a.ind) that he is the national prophet to Israel by fulfilling Isa.40:3 (Jn.1:19-23). John explains who he is not to Israel (Jn.1:19-22) and who he is to Israel (Jn.1:23).
- **2nd testimony of John** is recorded in (Jn.1:24-28). JB's response to the final question – "Why are you baptizing, **if (1cc)** you are not Christ, or Elijah, or The Prophet?" (Jn.1:25)

(Jn.1:26-27) "**John answered** them saying, 'I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know (ouk oida/ perf.a.ind). It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'" [superior rank to national prophet]

NOTE: Did you note John's three answers given to this question?

- **3rd testimony of John** is found in (Jn.1:29-31). Notice the words, **the next day**, referring to after these six questions were answered. Jesus comes to John for baptism.

NOTE: There are three parts to JB's third testimony of Jesus.

(Jn.1:29) Jesus: "Behold, the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!" [became a doctrinal title]

(Jn.1:30) "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a **higher rank** than I, for He **existed before me**'"

(Jn.1:31) "I did **not recognize Him**, but **so that He might be manifested to Israel**, I came baptizing in water."

- **4th testimony of John** is powerful declaration to Israel (Jn.1:32-34).

Spirit: "John testified saying, 'I have seen (theaoma/ perf.m.ind) **the Spirit** descending as a **dove** out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.'

"**I did not recognize Him**, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

"I myself have seen (horao/ perf.a.ind), and have testified (martureo/ perf.a.ind) that this is the **Son of God.**"

- **Read** (Luke 7:24-30)