

The Ministry of John and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-17

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” Isaiah 40:3b

This passage is a prophecy about John the Baptist. We will learn today how this prophecy was fulfilled.

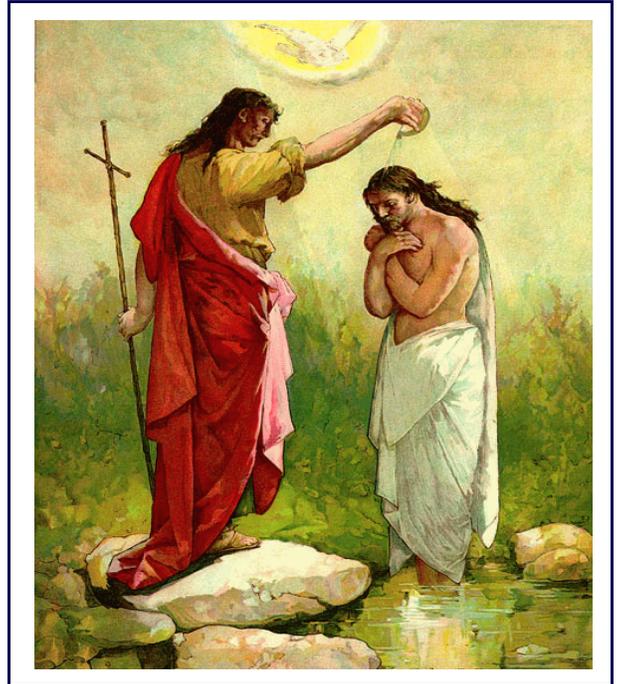
Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for showing us, through our study of His baptism, that Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the Law for us, to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance.

Help us to understand that in our baptism Jesus

washed us clean from all our sin and worked faith in our hearts. Keep us in that faith throughout our lives, we pray. Amen



The Baptism of Jesus

The Story

John was the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. John and Jesus were relatives. As the forerunner of the Messiah, John was God's last prophet for the children of Israel.

John lived in the wilderness. He wore camel's hair for clothes, with a belt around his waist. He ate grasshoppers and wild honey. He preached to many people from Jerusalem and Judea, telling them to repent of their sins and be baptized. That is why he is called John the Baptist. His job was to get people ready for the coming of Jesus.

One day some Pharisees came, and John called them a "brood of vipers," meaning they were as dangerous as poisonous snakes. He knew they did not believe in the promise of the coming Messiah. They thought they would be saved because they were born from Abraham's line. John warned these men that if they did not have faith they were like a tree that would be burned because it did not bear fruit.

On another day John saw Jesus coming to be baptized. John said,



"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" John did not think he was worthy enough to baptize Jesus. Jesus commanded John to do it, and John obeyed. When the baptism was over, the Holy Spirit landed on Jesus in the form of a dove. From the sky came the voice of

God the Father saying, "You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." All three persons of God were present at this baptism. The words were from the Father, Jesus was and is the Son, and the dove was the Holy Spirit.

Outer Aim Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.

What the Story Tells Us - Use the Bible references to answer the questions

1. What name did the prophet give John?(Mk. 1:2)
2. What did the prophet say John would do?(2-3)
3. Where did John preach and baptize?(4)
4. What did John preach?(4)
5. Who came to hear John?(5)
6. What did John wear?(6)
7. What did he eat?(6)
8. What did John call the Pharisees, Sadducees?(Mt.3:7)
9. What did he tell them to do?(8)
10. What did John say about Jesus?(11)
11. Who came to be baptized by John?(13)
12. What did John think about this?(14)
13. What happened after Jesus was baptized?(16-17)
14. What did Jesus now begin?(Lk. 3:23)
15. How old was Jesus at this time?(23)

What God's Word Tells Us

Why do we get baptized? (check Mt. 28:19 and Acts 22:16)

Why did Jesus get baptized? (check Mt. 3:15)

Your Turn- Place an X in front of each True statement.

1. _____ John the Baptist lived and preached in the city.
2. _____ John the Baptist preached about repentance.
3. _____ John the Baptist wanted Jesus to baptize him.
4. _____ Jesus baptized John.

Inner Aim God declared Jesus to be the Promised Messiah, our Savior.

Passages

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

1 John 1:7, 9 - "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Ephesians 5:25-26 - "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."

Puzzle Time - Find these words in the puzzle below.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
WILDERNESS
REPENTANCE

JORDAN
LOCUST
PHARISEE

CAMEL
VOICE
SADDUCEE

DOVE
VIPERS
GOD

D A Y R I L H H H F E S I J V W V
B O M D P H A R I S E E R G P I G
B T V O I C E D R A J U Y C P L Q
V Y K E L A J Z T D H I T E O D W
C C J I K W O G O D F R R V I E E
U A F P H E R X Y U S S P B I R R
Y M S I G R D L O C U S T N U N T
R E P E N T A N C E A T O M U E T
E L R J O H N T H E B A P T I S T
I O E U F D Z C Y T W Y O M Y S Y

Hymn/Prayer - TLH 63 v. 1, 5

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken,
For He brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore
And Holy Ghost
Forevermore. Amen.