

**JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS**



**John 1 v 19 - 34**

**John the Baptist denies being the Christ**

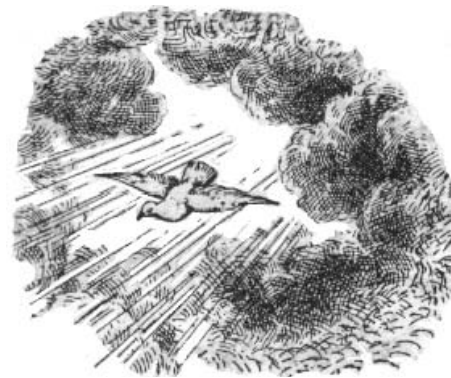
19. Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."  
 21. They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."  
 "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

22. Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"  
 23. John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord' ".  
 24. Now some Pharisees who had been sent, 25. questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"  
 26. "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."  
 28. This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**Jesus the Lamb of God**

29. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!  
 30. This is the one I meant when I

said, 'A man who comes after me, has surpassed me because He was before me'. 31. I myself did not know Him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel".  
 32. Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him. 33. I would not have known Him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on



whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34. I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

**Fill in the blank spaces with the correct missing**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 John the Baptist said he was the _____ of one calling in the _____. (v23)</p> <p>2 John the Baptist quoted Isaiah, the prophet, by saying, "Make _____ the _____ of the Lord". (v23)</p> <p>3 John said that, though Jesus was to come _____ him, He _____ him. (vs 27 &amp; 30) [This means that though John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus, Jesus was the most important One. John said that even he himself was not worthy to do the servant's job of untying Jesus' sandals. John knew how great Jesus was.]</p> <p>4 When John pointed Jesus out to all the</p> | <p>people, he called Him the _____ of _____, because Jesus would take away the _____ of the _____. (v29)</p> <p>5 John came to baptize people with water so that Jesus could be revealed to _____. (v31)</p> <p>6 John knew that Jesus was the Son of God (God born as Man) because the Spirit of God came down from heaven like a _____ and remained upon Jesus. (v32) This was also a sign that Jesus would baptize with the _____ (v33)</p> |
|--|--|

**Preparing the Way for Jesus**

For 400 years, God's chosen nation, Israel, had not had a prophet to bring them a message from God. They *did* have the Old Testament to tell them God's requirements and promises. They knew that Messiah, a deliverer anointed by God, would come one day to rule Israel. Isaiah had said he would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7 v 14) and described Him as "Immanuel" (Isaiah 7 v 14), which means "God with Us." Micah had foretold that He would be born in Bethlehem and be a ruler in Israel. (Micah 5 v 2)

Don't you think the people were surprised and glad to hear John the Baptist preaching and telling them to get ready for the coming of the Lord? How *could* the people get ready? Matthew tells us that John preached, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near**". (Matthew 3 v 2) Many people were then baptized by John in the Jordan River, "confessing their sins." You see, before hearts are ready to receive Jesus, they must be willing to turn from their sins (repent). When

you and I are willing to turn from our sins - our wrong attitudes, thoughts and actions toward God and man - we are ready *then* to recognize Jesus as the "highway" to God and receive Him as our King and Lord. John's kind of baptism in water was to show the washing away of sins. Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit to purge (make spiritually clean) sins as by fire. (Matthew 3 v 11, 12) and to give us a new life of righteousness. (Christ's own life in us).  
 Have you confessed *your* sins to God?

**Jesus, the Lamb of God**



The people of Israel knew the importance of a lamb in God's dealings with them. Centuries before, when the children of Israel were in slavery in Egypt, God worked on Pharaoh's heart to let God's people leave Egypt in freedom. God had to use 10 plagues to get Pharaoh to allow this great people, numbering 3 million, to go. The last and most terrible plague was that the Lord would go through the land of Egypt and all the first-born in the land would die during one night.

*But there was a way of escape.* Every household who would obey God's command, would live. God commanded a lamb without blemish to be killed. The blood of the lamb was to be put on the sides of the doorway of each house and above the doorway of the house. When God saw the blood on the doorway He would "pass over" them and the death plague would not destroy them. What a wonderful plan! The children of Israel were to keep the Passover feast every year from that time as a memorial of the time when God's judgement "passed over" them because they had applied the blood of the lamb to their doors. (This story is found in Exodus 12 v 1 -

42)  
 How precious that Jesus' first public introduction to the world, should be as the "Lamb of God"! He had come to be the sacrificial lamb, perfect and without blemish or sin, so that His shed blood could be applied to the door of our hearts and God's judgement for our sin can "pass over" us! Hebrews 9 v 22 tells us, "... **without shedding of blood is no forgiveness**". (forgiveness of sins) Leviticus 17 v 11 says, "**... it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life**". All the lambs slain through the years pointed to Jesus who would come as "the Lamb of God" to shed His blood so that all who take Him as

Saviour might have His blood applied on the doorposts of their heart. "**I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.**" (John 5 v 24)  
 Isaiah 53 v 7 points out that "**He was led like a lamb to the slaughter**". Jesus came to die for the sins of the world. Why not thank Him out loud right now for being the Lamb of God, whose blood was shed for *you* and takes away *your* sins? When God sees the blood, He does not see your sins anymore; He sees only the perfect sacrifice of Christ who took our sins upon Himself and received our judgement for us. Praise God!



**Would you be free from your burden of sin?  
 There's power in the blood,  
 power in the blood;  
 Would you over evil a victory win?  
 There's wonderful power in the blood.**