



Joh 1:19-22 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? (20) And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. (21) And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. (22) Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

Joh 1:23-25 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. (24) And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. (25) And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

Joh 1:26-28 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; (27) He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. (28) These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD (+33-5BC)



Fun Fact About John...

- First Prophet called by God for approx. 400 years or from about 400 BC.
- Spanning what is known as the intertestamental period, wherein God was largely quiet.
- After Malachi there was plenty going on.

Other Interesting Tidbits...



- Prophesied about in:
- Isa 40:3-5 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (4) Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: (5) And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.
- Mat 3:1-3 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, (2) And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (3) For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.



Without a Prophet...

- Without a specific Word from God from a prophet the people were left to their own devices of interpretation of the Old Testament particularly the Pentateuch.
- Three Major groups among many that spawned with interpretations where the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Essenes. The Sadducees held control of the Temple during John's time.

While still...

 Some were awaiting a Davidic King to spring forth from David's line to free them from Roman oppression.

 And still others were waiting for a Priestly King from Aarons lineage that would take over the temple and rule from there.

 Everyone had an opinion about who the messiah would be, but only one guy had it directly from the Lord what needed to happen.





Enter John...

- Born of miraculous circumstances to elderly parents of whom his mother was supposed to be barren. (Luke 1:7; Luke 1:39-45)
- Aware of his calling even in the womb as we see him leap in his mother's womb when they met the Pregnant Mary and Jesus.
- A very unique individual, called to a very unique time for a very unique purpose at the convergence of the story of redemption for man.

John's Message

• Mar 1:1-8 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; (2) As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. (3) The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. (4) John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (5) And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. (6) And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; (7) And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. (8) I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.



It was simple...

- Vs. 4 Baptism of Repentance for remission of sins.
 - First step of salvation is repentance (Acts 2:38 "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."
- Vs. 7 Baptism of Water and of The Holy Ghost.
- In summary, believe in the coming Messiah, repent of your sins and be baptized as a public display of solidarity among other believers.
- There was a problem though, this did not line up with what the religious leaders at the time observed.



From afar...

- "the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem ..." this took place in Bethany (John 1)
 - That's a journey of nearly 21 miles.
- To ask John...
 - Who are you?
 - Or by what authority do you teach these things?
 - Are you a prophet?
 - Are you Elijah? (Because they were familiar with the Isaiah prophecy naturally and Elijah was taken up)
- John's teaching was so widespread and so powerful that the religious leaders had to respond... he was making noise.



John's Response

- I am not Elijah.
- I am not the Messiah.
- The he quotes Isaiah, "I am the voice crying in the wilderness, to make straight the way of the Lord."
- "Then why are you baptizing?", they asked or by whose authority do you teach this new thing?
- One is coming, whose sandal I am not worthy to unlatch.
- Then the next day he would baptize Jesus setting up the stage for the public ministry of Jesus on all fronts.







