

✓ John the Baptist

✓ A better term may be, "John the baptizer"

✓ I. His beginnings

✓ A. John was a Levite

Not every Levite served in the priesthood

✓ 1. His father, Zacharias, served in the priesthood

✓ 2. The priesthood was not an open position Stayed in the clan, from father to son

✓ B. His mother, Elizabeth, was barren

✓ 1. She was ashamed not to continue the priestly line (Lk 1:25)

✓ C. John was a Nazarite from birth

✓ 1. Even before his birth, he was filled with the Spirit (Lk 1:41)

✓ 2. This was a special filling! They Holy Spirit did not come upon believers like today

✓ II. His ministry

Let's look at the man!

✓ A. John could not be bought

✓ 1. He wore rugged clothes (Matt 3:4)

✓ B. John was a bold preacher

Herod feared no one...except John

✓ 1. He condemned Herod to his face (Mk 6:18-19)

✓ C. John's message was to repent

What is repentance?

✓ 1. There is no one too bad to be saved

✓ 2. Many will believe they are too good to need it

✓ Repentance was demonstrated through the act of baptism

✓ D. The baptism of Jesus

✓ 1. Not for the repentance of any sins Jesus is "impeccable"

✓ 2. To inaugurate the ministry of the Messiah Anointed by a Levitical priest

✓ III. His legacy

✓ A. John came to prepare hearts to receive the Messiah (Matt 11:13-14)

✓ 1. John's message is still valid today (Is 40:3) What are we making straight?

✓ B. No repentance = no rebirth

Have you repented and believed, or just believed with no repentance?

✓ 1. Misinterpreting the Bible always leads to rejecting Jesus Because He is the word

✓ C. Jesus said he was the greatest naturally born man (Matt 11:11)

✓ 1. Yet, what makes us greater than John? _____