

THRU BIBLE

Luke 3:15-38 | "The Baptism of Jesus"

I. MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS. (v. 15-20)

JOHN'S PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH (v. 15-18)

A. (v. 15)

1. ***"And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;"***

a. "mused" - Gr. "reasoned; debated; pondering; thought"

1) Our whole entertainment industry is to make people *amused* ("not think").

B. (v. 16)

1. ***"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:"***

a. "He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire"

1) **NOTE:** There are many baptisms mentioned in the Bible, with 2 of them referred to here.

a) The baptism OF JOHN.

i. Baptizer = John

ii. Element = Water

iii. Issue = Repentance from sin

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- b) The baptism **WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**.
 - i. Baptizer = Jesus
 - a. We usually call it the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but really it should be the Baptism of Jesus.
 - ii. Element = Holy Spirit
 - iii. Issue = Power to be a witness ([Acts 1:8](#))

- c) The baptism **OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**. ([1 Cor. 12:3](#))
 - i. Baptizer = Holy Spirit
 - ii. Element = Himself
 - iii. Issue = Entrance into the Body of Christ
 - a. Cf. [Ephesians 4:3-6](#) - When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, in the context of these verses, he is talking about the Body of Christ ([Eph. 4:16](#)), so the "one baptism" he is referring to is that "one baptism" into the Body of Christ.

- d) The baptism **OF DISCIPLES**. ([Matt. 28:19-20](#))

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- i. Baptizer = Disciples
 - ii. Element = Water
 - iii. Issue = Identification with Christ
 - a. Cf. [Romans 6:3-4](#)
- 2) **KEY: Jesus wants to baptize (overflow; immerse) you with the Person of the Holy Spirit!**
- a) **Illust.** - Glass of Water. Empty glass (prior to conversion); glass filled to the brim (salvation); pouring more water and the glass overflows (baptism with the Holy Spirit)
- 3) Cf. [John 7:37-39](#)

JOHN'S PRISON SENTENCE (v. 19-20)

II. THE BAPTISM OF JESUS. (v.21-22)

JOHN'S(v. 21-22)

A. (v. 21)

- 1. **"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,"**
 - a. "Jesus also being baptized"

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- 1) **Q** = Why was Jesus *baptized* if He wasn't a sinner?
 - a) To identify Himself with John's message and give approval to his ministry.
 - i. Jesus agreed that the people needed to repent and prepare for the coming of the kingdom.
 - b) To identify Himself with believers.
 - i. Those who were the believing Remnant of Israel in that day were responding to John's message and being baptized. Thus, Jesus identified Himself with that group.
 - c) To identify Himself with sinners.
 - i. Cf. **Hebrew 4:15** - "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
 - ii. Cf. **Romans 8:3** - "*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*"
 - iii. Cf. **2 Corinthians 5:21** - "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*"

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- d) To signify the future baptism of God's judgment on the cross. ([Mark 10:35-40](#))
- e) To fulfill all righteousness ([Matt. 3:15](#)), thus an example for us in obedience to God.
- f) To receive a special anointing of the Holy Spirit. ([v. 22](#))
 - i. Cf. [Acts 10:38](#) - Peter told Cornelius and his house, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

b. "and praying"

- 1) Luke is the only Gospel writer to add this detail to the narrative.
 - a) **NOTE:** Luke's Gospel speaks more to the prayer life of Jesus than any of the other Gospels.

B. ([v. 22](#))

- 1. **"And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."**

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- a. **NOTE:** It is at Jesus' baptism that we see THE TRIUNE GOD make His appearance, BOTH VISIBLY AND AUDIBLY.

- b. *"the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him"*
 - 1) *"bodily" - Gr. "physical"*
 - 2) *"shape" - Gr. "appearance; visible form"*
 - 3) *"like a dove"*
 - a) He wasn't literally a dove, but "*like*" one.
 - 4) **Q** = In all the various ways that the Holy Spirit could have made His appearance, why did He choose a bird? And why specifically a dove?...
 - a) The first time the Holy Spirit is mentioned in Scripture, He is pictured as a Mother Bird.
 - i. Cf. **Genesis 1:2** - *"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God **moved** upon the face of the waters."*
 - a. *"moved" - Heb. "hovered; brooded; fluttered; flew; shook"*
 - i. **KEY:** The idea of this Hebrew word is that of a mother bird caring for and

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protecting her eggs ([Deut. 32:11](#); [Jer. 23:9](#)).

- b) The ancient rabbis¹ specified the bird of [Genesis 1:2](#) to be a "Dove", so the *dove* became a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This was still the mindset of the Jewish community in the days of Jesus.
- c) Doves are so gentle, they won't land and rest until there is absolute peace and tranquility. If there's a bunch of movement or noise, the little bird won't settle down there. Here is the Prince of Peace being baptized, and Spirit like a Dove rests upon Him.



- 5) **NOTE:** This is why I like the Calvary Dove (or called the Maranatha Dove) as the symbol for our church. We come from a rich heritage in Calvary Chapel as a move of the Spirit of God in our days, and we desire to see the Holy Spirit descend upon us like He did on the day of Pentecost ([Acts 2:1-4](#)) that we might live in the power and anointing of the Spirit.

c. "a voice came from heaven"

- 1) In rabbinic theology, God spoke to the prophets until Malachi, and the next prophet would be Elijah before the coming of the Messiah. However, they did not believe that God stopped speaking entirely after Malachi, but that periodically God would speak a short sentence

¹ *Chagigah* 14b-15a. <https://www.sefaria.org/Chagigah.14b?lang=bi>

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out of heaven, called the *Bat Kol* ("daughter of a voice; echo").

- a) **NOTE:** While the Shechinah glory is the *visible* manifestation of God, the Bat Kol is the *audible*!
- 2) **NOTE:** This was the first of three times when God the Father spoke audibly out of heaven.
- a) #1 - Baptism
 - b) #2 - Transfiguration ([Matt. 17:5](#))
 - c) #3 - During His Passion Week when He foretold of His death and prayed. ([John 12:28](#))
- d. "Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased"
- 1) This is the *Bat Kol* that came out of heaven from God the Father.
 - 2) The Father is identifying Jesus as the Son mentioned in [Psalm 2:12](#) - "*Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*"
 - a) **KEY:** The Father is declaring that Jesus is the Messianic Son, God the Son!

III. THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS THROUGH MARY. (v. 23-38)

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A. (v. 23)

1. **"And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,"**
 - a. "about thirty years of age"
 - 1) Luke uses the word "about" in a very narrow sense (Luke 1:56; 9:14, 28; 22:59; 23:44).

THE LINEAGE OF CHRIST ANTICIPATED

B. The Davidic Covenant.

1. **KEY: In this Davidic Covenant, we see God's ETERNAL promises to David:**
 - a. An Eternal DYNASTY. (2 Sam. 7:11)
 - b. An Eternal KINGDOM. (2 Sam. 7:12-14)
 - c. An Eternal THRONE. (2 Sam. 7:12-14)
 - d. An Eternal DESCENDANT (1 Chron. 17:11-14).

C. The "Blood Curse" on the Royal Line through Jeconiah.

1. Cf. **Jeremiah 22:30** - In speaking of Jeconiah, Jeremiah wrote, "Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah."

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THE GENEALOGIES (Matt. 1:1-16; Luke 3:23-38)

D. Problem #1:

1. **The Messiah had to be of the bloodline of David, but without the Blood Curse of the royal line!**

- a. **ANSWER:** The virgin birth! Jesus was legally of the royal line of Joseph, and of the bloodline of David through Mary.

E. Problem #2:

1. **Here in Luke's Gospel, Joseph is called the "son of Heli," but Matthew 1:16 says that "Jacob begat Joseph."**

- a. **ANSWER:** In Luke 3:23, it doesn't use the word "begat," but "son of", which shows that this is actually Mary's genealogy!
- 1) In that culture, if a father had no sons, then he would legally adopt his son-in-law (Ezra 2:61; Neh 7:63; Num 32:41; cf. 1 Chr 2:21-22, 34-35) Thus, Joseph was legally the son of Heli.

F. Problem #3:

1. **The rights of the line are not passed through the mother, only the father. Even though Mary, through her lineage, was of the bloodline of David, she is excluded from being able to pass those rights of the bloodline because of being a female (Deut 21:16). It is not enough to prove that Mary was an unblemished descendant of David, she had to be a male to transfer**

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the rights. Therefore she would be disqualified to transfer the rights to her son Jesus.

- a. Answer: The Daughters of Zelophehad! (Numbers 27:1-11; 36:1-12)
 - 1) **NOTE:** The inheritance can go to the daughter if...
 - a) **She has no brothers.**
 - i. There is no record that Mary had any brothers.
 - ii. She had a sister (John 19:25-27) which could be Salome, the mother of James and John (Matt. 27:56; Mark 15:40).
 - b) **If she marries within the tribe.**
 - i. Joseph and Mary were both from the tribe of Judah.
 - b. **NOTE:** Jesus can claim the rights of the bloodline of David because of Numbers 27:1-11!
 - c. **KEY: The Claim that Jesus is the Messiah hangs on this Divine Exception!**
 - 1) **NOTE:** God predetermined that there was going to be a virgin birth, and He put this exception to the Law thousands of years before He would do it!
 - 2) **KEY:** God knows what is going on in your life! You might not see what the purpose is for those things in your life, but His ways are higher than your ways! He is a big God!