

**Session 2: Jesus the Child AND The Preaching of John the Baptist****Matthew 2:19-3:12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 2:21-3:21****The Circumcision and Blessing of the Infant Jesus****Luke 2:21-38**

**21** *And when eight days were fulfilled so that they could circumcise Him, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.*

**22** *And when the days for their cleansing according to the Law of Moses were fulfilled, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord*

**23** *(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD”),*

**24** *and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.”*

**25** *And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.*

**26** *And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.*

**27** *And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,*

**28** *then he took Him into his arms and blessed God, and said,*

**29** *“Now Master, You are releasing Your slave in peace, According to Your word.*

**30** *For my eyes have seen Your salvation,*

**31** *Which You prepared in the presence of all peoples,*

**32** *A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, and for the glory of Your people Israel.”*

**33** *And His father and mother were marveling at the things which were being said about Him.*

**34** *And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—*

**35** *and a sword will pierce through your own soul as well—that the thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”*

**36** *And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,*

**37** *and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.*

**38 And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.**

### **The Return to Nazareth**

<b>Matthew 2:19-23</b>	<b>Luke 2:39-40</b>
<p><b>19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,</b></p> <p><b>20 "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead."</b></p> <p><b>21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.</b></p> <p><b>22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he departed for the district of Galilee,</b></p> <p><b>23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken through the prophets would be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."</b></p>	<p><b>39 And when they had finished everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.</b></p> <p><b>40 Now the Child continued to grow and become strong, being filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.</b></p>

### **The Boy Jesus in the Temple**

#### **Luke 2:41-52**

**41 And His parents would go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.**

**42 And when He became twelve years old, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast;**

**43 and as they were returning, after finishing the days of the Feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents did not know.**

**44 But supposing Him to be in the caravan, they went a day's journey, and they began searching for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.**

**45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem searching for Him.**

**46 And it happened that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.**

**47 And all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers.**

**48 When they saw Him, they were astonished, and His mother said to Him, "Child, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously searching for You."**

**49** And He said to them, “Why is it that you were searching for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”

**50** But they did not understand the statement which He had spoken to them.

**51** And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them, and His mother was treasuring all these things in her heart.

**52** And Jesus was advancing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

**The Preaching of John the Baptist**

<b>Matthew 3:1-12</b>	<b>Mark 1:1-8</b>	<b>Luke 3:1-21</b>
<p><b>1</b> Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,</p> <p><b>2</b> “REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.”</p> <p><b>3</b> For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, “<b>THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’</b>”</p> <p><b>4</b> Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.</p> <p><b>5</b> Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all</p>	<p><b>1.</b> The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.</p> <p><b>2</b> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “<b>BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY;</b></p> <p><b>3</b> <b>THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene</p> <p><b>2</b> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.</p> <p><b>3</b> And he came into <u>all the district around the Jordan</u>, <b>PREACHING A BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;</b></p> <p><b>4</b> as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “<b>THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT. EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED,</b></p> <p><b>5</b> <b>AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE BROUGHT LOW; THE CROOKED WILL BE STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH.</b></p> <p><b>6</b> <b>AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.’”</b></p>

<p><b><i>Judea, and all the district around the Jordan;</i></b></p> <p><b><i>6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"</i></b></p> <p><b><i>8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;</i></b></p> <p><b><i>9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>10 "And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>PATHS STRAIGHT."</i></b></p> <p><b><i>4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness</i></b></p> <p><b><i>PREACHING A BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>5 And all the region of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>6 And John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and was eating locusts and wild honey.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>7 So he was saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"</i></b></p> <p><b><i>8 "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>9 But indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."</i></b></p> <p><b><i>10 And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what should we do?"</i></b></p> <p><b><i>11 And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."</i></b></p> <p><b><i>12 And tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"</i></b></p> <p><b><i>13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to."</i></b></p> <p><b><i>14 And soldiers were also questioning him, saying, "What should we also do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or extort anyone, and be content with your wages."</i></b></p> <p><b><i>15 Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were reasoning in their hearts about</i></b></p>
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<p><b><u>11 “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>12 “His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>7 And he was preaching, saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the strap of His sandals.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>8 “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>John, as to whether he was the Christ,</u></b></p> <p><b><u>16 John answered, saying to them all, “As for me, I baptize you with water, but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the strap of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>17 “His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”</u></b></p> <p><b><u>18 So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the gospel to the people.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>19 But when Herod the tetrarch was reproved by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the wicked things which Herod had done,</u></b></p> <p><b><u>20 Herod also added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.</u></b></p>
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**Memory Verse:**

***1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”***  
**(Matthew 3:1-2)**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why was Jesus circumcised when he was 8 days old? Was it significant that Jesus was Joseph and Mary’s first-born son? What do you think was the significance of the blessings from Simeon and Anna?

- 2. Why do you think Joseph and Mary take Jesus to the Temple when he was twelve years old?**
- 3. Who was John the Baptist? What are the differences in how Matthew, Mark, and Luke described John the Baptist's ministry? What was the significance of His ministry?**
- 4. What does it mean to "repent?"**
- 5. What did John mean when he said that One coming after him would baptize with "*the Holy Spirit and fire*?"**
- 6. How could John's message be described as the "gospel" (Luke 3:18)?**

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<sup>1</sup> Blomberg, C. (1992). [Matthew](#) (Vol. 22, p. 78-79). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Morison, J. (1899). [A Practical Commentary on the Gospel according to St. Matthew](#) (p. 36). Hodder and Stoughton.

### **Baptism of repentance/Baptism in reference to repentance**

Probably the term simply should be taken as “*in reference to*”. Baptism in reference to repentance thus distinguishes John’s baptism from other religions’ ritual washings which do not symbolize turning away from sin.

### **Baptism of Spirit and Fire**

This is not two different things. It is not WITH the Holy Spirt and WITH fire, but with the Holy Spirit AND Fire.

If baptism with the Holy Spirit refers to the conversion of believers, baptism with fire would naturally be associated with the fiery judgment of unbelievers described in vv. 10 and 12. Yet the actual grammatical construction in Greek suggests that v. 11 refers to only one baptism, that which combines the Holy Spirit and fire. For believers this would most likely refer to the Holy Spirit’s purifying and refining activity, but the same convicting power when spurned by unbelievers leads ultimately to judgment. Verse 12 expands the judgment metaphor of v. 10. John uses the image of a farmer separating valuable wheat from worthless chaff by throwing the grain into the air and allowing the two constituent elements to separate in the wind. The wheat, like believers, is preserved and safeguarded; the chaff, like unbelievers, is destroyed

The expression baptism “with/in the Holy Spirit” appears six other times in the New Testament. Five of these texts refer to this very saying of John (Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16). Acts 1–2 demonstrates that John’s prediction was fulfilled at Pentecost.

#### **Literally –**

This was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in Acts. The Holy Spirit came and something like tongues of fire rested on them. So, this could literally be a prophetic word about the first coming of the Holy Spirit upon believers after the resurrection of Jesus.

#### **Metaphoric Imagery**

The sixth reference appears in 1 Cor 12:13, where it is clear that all Christians receive Spirit-baptism. The phrase therefore refers to a ritual that depicts a believer’s initiation into the body of Christ by the indwelling Holy Spirit, who never departs following true conversion and regeneration.

### **Baptism of the Spirit vs. Filled of the Spirit**

Baptism of the Spirit must not be confused with the “filling of the Spirit,” which recurs repeatedly to empower believers to proclaim God’s word boldly (Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9). Here is further reason why one cannot be a Christian without having a changed life; the indwelling Spirit guarantees that the process of sanctification will begin (cf. Rom 6–8).