Grace Bible Chapel, October 1, 2023 Greg Rhodea, PhD



I. The \_\_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

- <sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"
- <sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.' "

# II. The \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Coming One

<sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

### III. The \_\_\_\_\_\_and the \_\_\_\_\_-Bearer

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> 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."

<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with

the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."



# The Bottom Line

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# **Send Your Spirit** (Cyril of Jerusalem, 4<sup>th</sup> century)

God of all, who spoke by the Holy Spirit through the prophets, you sent forth the Spirit upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

Now send forth the Spirit upon us at this time, and by the Spirit also keep us. Impart his benefits in common to us all, that we may always show forth the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

In Christ Jesus our Lord, by whom and with whom, together with the Holy Spirit, be glory to the Father, both now and ever, and forever and ever, amen.