

THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST JOHN 1:19-34

LAST WEEK WE WRAPPED UP THE APOSTLE JOHN'S INTRODUCTION (PROLOGUE) TO HIS GOSPEL. JOHN INTRODUCES THE READERS TO JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, THE INFINITE ONE WHO BECAME ONE OF US. IF YOU MISSED ANY OF THE SERVICES, I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND WATCH. WHY? BECAUSE THE FIRST 18 VERSES IN THIS GOSPEL ARE A PORTION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE THAT IS UNPARALLELED. DIFFERENT FROM THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS (MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE) AS THEY ONLY GIVE THE HISTORY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. JOHN'S GOSPEL STARTS WITH THE NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST IN THEOLOGICAL TERMS. THEN, HE ACCOUNTS THE HISTORY OF HIS MINISTRY, DEATH, AND RESSURECTION. JOHN HAS SEEN, TOUCHED, AND WALKED WITH THE MESSIAH (THE ANOINTED ONE). WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME MOST IS HOW MUCH THE APOSTLE JOHN LOVES JESUS. I BELIEVE IT WAS HUMILITY THAT MOVED JOHN TO NOT EVEN MENTION HIS OWN NAME IN THIS GOSPEL BUT REFERS TO HIMSELF AS "THE DISCIPLE IN WHOM JESUS LOVED". THERE IS HOWEVER, A JOHN MENTIONED. THIS IS JOHN THE BAPTIST. JOHN VERY WELL MAY HAVE BEEN JESUS'S COUSIN IN SOME WAY BECAUSE THEIR MOMS (MARY AND ELIZABETH) WERE RELATED. AS WE BEGIN TODAY IN VERSE 19, WE START THE HISTORICAL EYEWITNESS PROOF THAT JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY THE SON OF GOD. THE SAVIOR OF HIS PEOPLE. THE APOSTLE JOHN STARTS WITH A TESTIMONY BY A RELIABLE WITNESS, JOHN THE BAPTIST. THE LAST OT PROPHET AND THE FIRST NT

PREACHER. JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS BORN 6 MONTHS BEFORE JESUS. HE WAS THE SON OF A LEVITE PRIEST (ZECHARIAH) WHO WAS TOLD ABOUT THE MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION OF JOHN BY THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL. JOHN LIVED A LIFE OF EXILE IN THE WILDERNESS, CLOTHED IN CAMEL'S HAIR AND EATING LOCUTS WHEN HE RECEIVED THE WORD FROM GOD TO START HIS MINISTRY CALLING PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE AND BAPTIZING THEM IN WATER. THIS FULFILLED THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH 40 "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.'"

THE PORTION OF SCRIPTURE THAT WE WILL STUDY TODAY AND NEXT WEEK ARE 4 CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN HISTORY. IN TODAY'S TEXT, WE WIL FOCUS ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS.

DAY 1

John 1:19-20 NIV

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

JEWISH LEADERS/LOUDAIOS/THE JEWS

APOSTLE JOHN USES "THE JEWS" 70 TIMES IN THIS GOSPEL AND EVERYTIME HE IS REFERRING TO THEM AS ENEMIES OF

CHRIST. THE SANHEDRIN WERE THE SHOTCALLERS IN JERUSALEM. THE HIGH COURT OF THE JEWS CONSISTED OF SADDUCEES (RELIGIOUS LIBERALS WHO WERE MAINLY POLITICAL, HAD THE BULK OF POWER AND CONTROL OF THE MONEY FROM THE TEMPLE, HAD CONNECTIONS WITH ROME) PHARISEES (DEVOTED TO THE LAW, TEACHERS OF THE PEOPLE, LAWYERS)

JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS A FAMOUS PREACHER, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FLOCKED FROM JUDEA AND JERUSALEM TO REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED BY JOHN. THIS MADE THE SANHEDRIN NERVOUS, SO THEY SENT SPYS TO ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING OT PROPHECIES

John 1:21 NIV

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

ELIJAH?

Malachi 4:5 NIV

⁵ "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.

JESUS'S FIRST COMING WASN'T IN JUDGEMENT. HE CAME TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE. JOHN CAME IN THE "SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH" BUT HE HIMSELF WAS NOT ELIJAH

Matthew 11:13-14 NIV

¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

JESUS BASICALLY SAYS, IF ISRAEL HAD BELIEVED THAT I AM THE MESSIAH, JOHN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE ARCHETYPE OF ELIJAH BUT INSTEAD, HE IS THE SHADOW OF THE ELIJAH THAT WILL COME BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD IN TH FUTURE

THE PROPHET?

Deuteronomy 18:15 NIV

¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

MOSES REPRESENTS THE LAW, ELIJAH REPRESENTS THE PROPHETS, JESUS REPRESENTS THE NEW COVENANT FULFILLING BOTH THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

ALL THREE WERE ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION

John 1:22-23 NIV

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ 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.'"

WE SEE A HUMBLE PREACHER WHO IS FOCUSSED ON MISSION

HE COULD HAVE SAID, " I'VE BEEN CALLED BY GOD, I WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB, MY DAD IS A PRIEST, I WAS RAISED AS A LEVITE, FULLY CONSECRATED TO THE LORD". JOHN SAYS, "I AM A VOICE" TURNING FOCUS BACK ON THE LORD

THIS IS TRULY A GENUINE GOSPEL PREACHER

John 1:24-28 NIV

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

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

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

THE JEWS ARE ASKING, "WHERE DO YOU GET THE AUTHORITY?"

AGAIN, JOHN SAYS, "DON'T TRIP ON ME, THE MESSIAH IS COMING!! HE WILL BAPTIZE PEOPLE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE!!"

FUN FACT: JOHN THE BAPTIST CALLED THE JEWISH PEOPLE COMING OUT TO HEAR HIM PREACH AND BAPTIZE "A BROOD OF VIPERS"

Luke 3:7-9 NIV

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

JOHN WAS PREACHING HARD TRUTHS THAT CHALLENGED THE CULTURE AND RELIGION OF THAT DAY BEFORE HE WOULD BAPTIZE PEOPLE

DAY 2

John 1:29 NIV

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

TIMELINE: 40+ DAYS AGO JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS IN THE JORDAN, JOHN SAW THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCEND AND REST ON JESUS. JOHN HEARS THE FATHER CONFIRM “THIS IS MY SON IN WHOM I’M WELL PLEASED”. JESUS WAS THEN LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL WHERE HE DEFEATED HIM WITH THE WORD. NOW JESUS IS WALKING BACK FROM THERE TO JOHN

John 1:30-31 NIV

³⁰ 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.”

BEHOLD THE INFINITE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!!
JOHN’S WHOLE MINISTRY HAS COME TO FRUITION

JOHN ADMITS THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH UNTIL HE SAW THE HOLY SPIRIT REST ON HIM

BAPTIZING IN WATER IS MERELY SYMBOLIC OF WHAT GOD DOES ON THE INSIDE OF A HUMAN FULFILLED WHEN A HEART TURNS TO FAITH IN CHRIST, WHO FILLS US WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 1:32-34 NIV

³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ 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.’ ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

THIS ANOINTED & CONSECRATED WITNESS TESTIFIES, “THIS IS THE MESSIAH WE’VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR”

THE APOSTLE JOHN RECORDS THE PROOF OF EYEWITNESS AND CONVICTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST