

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes

Chapter 1 PT. 2: The Testimony of John the Baptist

John 1:19-34

John 1:19-23 (NASB) – “¹⁹ This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ ²⁰ And he confessed and did not deny; and *this is what* he confessed: ‘I am not the Christ.’ ²¹ And *so* they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ And he answered, ‘No.’ ²² Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? *Tell us*, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ ²³ He said, ‘I am THE VOICE OF ONE CALLING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, “MAKE THE WAY OF THE LORD STRAIGHT,” as Isaiah the prophet said.’”

Introduction

The Divine Purpose of John the Baptist



- It was John the Baptist’s divine purpose to be the first Witness for Yeshua.
- John was born with one single purpose: pointing the way to the One.
- John was not born and then had to discover his purpose; John the Baptist was born to fulfill his purpose.

Revelation (Write This Down)

John the Baptist and John the Apostle both had names that mean, “G-d is Gracious” A man named John was the first to see and recognize Jesus and a man named John, was the last to see Him at the cross! Selah.

A Name Divinely Assigned

John the Baptist

Luke 1:59-66 (NKJV) – “⁵⁹ So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. ⁶⁰ His mother answered and said, ‘**No; he shall be called John.**’ ⁶¹ But they said to her, ‘There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.’ ⁶² So they made signs **to his father**—what he would have him called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, ‘**His name is John.**’ **So they all marveled.** ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he spoke, praising God. ⁶⁵ Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ And all those who heard *them* kept *them* in their hearts, saying, ‘**What kind of child will this be?**’ And the hand of the Lord was with him.”

Question: Why is naming him creating such a stir?

Answer: The answer is found in **Verse 61 of Luke 1**. “There is **no one** among your relatives who is called by this name.”

Understanding: John the Baptist was part of a priestly family.

- Elizabeth and Zacharias were from the priestly Levitical tribe.
- John would have been expected to follow the tradition and take the name of someone in the family.
- The name change marked him as someone very different, with a G-d given purpose from his mother’s womb!
- Those who heard remarked, marveled, and stated, “**What kind of child will this be?**”

Key: As an adult John the Baptist answered the question himself in John 1.

Verse 19

John 1:19 (NASB) – “This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’”



The Response Is Everything!

Verse 20-22

John 1:20-22 (NASB) – “²⁰ And he confessed and did not deny; and *this is what* he confessed: ‘**I am not the Christ.**’ ²¹ And so they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ And he said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ And he answered, ‘No.’ ²² Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? *Tell us*, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’”

Note: John did not start his reply by saying **who he was**, but by saying **who he was not**!

- John put his witness before his identity!
- John made it clear that who he was came second to why he came.
- He diminished himself before anyone had a chance to exalt him.

Verse 23



John 1:23 (NASB) – “He said, ‘I am **THE VOICE OF ONE** CALLING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, “MAKE THE WAY OF **THE LORD** STRAIGHT,’””

“The Voice”-(Greek)- *phōnē* -to shine, make clear, through the idea of disclosure, a sound, a tone.

Key: John announces his purpose by first announcing who he was not! John made it clear he was not even on the same level of the One he was sent to witness about!

Identity Clarified

Verses 24-28

John 1:24-28 (NASB) – “²⁴ And *the messengers* had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, and said to him, ‘**Why then are you baptizing**, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?’ ²⁶ John answered them, saying, ‘I baptize in water, *but* among you stands One whom you do not know. ²⁷ *It is* He who comes after me, of whom I am **not worthy *even* to untie the strap of His sandal.**’ ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing *people*.”

Understanding: Religion will always oppose Relationship! (“Why are you baptizing?”)

Question: But why did they mention Elijah in the same sentence with Jesus?

Answer: They had head knowledge; they knew the writings of the prophets.

Malachi 4:5 (NASB) - “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.”

Key: Jesus revealed this to His Disciples so that they would not be as confused as the Pharisees were.

Matthew 11:14 (AMP) – “And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is [the fulfillment of] Elijah [as the messenger] who was to come [before the kingdom].”

Note: This is not a literal reincarnation. Jesus is saying the John the Baptist came in the same spirit of Elijah, the same spirit of prophecy and boldness that stood out in Elijahs ministry on the earth.

The Earthly Divine Encounter- *“They Meet Again”*

Verses 29-34



John 1:29-34 (NASB) – “²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, ‘**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**’ ³⁰ This is He in behalf of whom I said, “After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.” ³¹ And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water.’ ³² And John testified, saying, ‘I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. ³³ And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, “He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.”’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”’

“Behold The Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sin of the World”

- John did not hesitate in his “Witness” of “the Son of God”.
- John revealed Jesus’ purpose for coming into the earth.
- But most importantly, John made His Divinity unquestionable at the very start, (*“a Man my superior, who existed before me”*).

Question: Why a Lamb?



Answer: In a religious context, especially Christianity, a lamb is a powerful metaphor meaning:

- Innocence
- Purity
- Sacrifice

Understanding: When used in association with Jesus Christ, this symbolic meaning stems from the Old Testament traditions of using lambs as sacrificial animals.

Hebrews 10:11-13 (NASB) – “¹¹And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered **for all time a single sacrifice for sins**, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.”

Key: When Jesus said, “*It Is Finished*”, He meant it!

“I DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM”

Understanding: John the Baptist makes this statement in **Verse 31** and **Verse 33**. John the Baptist states twice, “I did not recognize Him”. The Apostle John is trying to let the readers know that even though John the Baptist knew Jesus before He came to earth, He is now seeing Him in the flesh, and only G-d the Father could point Him out to John the Baptist!

- Father G-d had given John the Baptist a sign to look for.
- A sign he would not miss.
- A sign that would remain through out the ministry of Jesus in the earth.



Verse 33

John 1:33 (NASB) – “...He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see ***the Spirit*** descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’”

Key: The sign was Holy Spirit! He descended upon Him AND remained!

Jesus also makes this clear!

John 6:44 (NASB) - “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;...”

- We did not choose Jesus.
- We could not save ourselves.
- It was by grace alone that we were saved.

Verse 34

John 1:34 (NASB) – “... **I myself** have seen, and **have testified** that **this is the Son of God.**”

Key: When John the Baptist saw, He testified!

Testified-(Greek)-*martyreo*-which means to bear witness, testify, or give evidence.

Understanding: Once John had the revelation that this was the Son of G-d, you could not stop him from witnessing! Even death could not close his mouth!

Question: Why?

Answer: He had been given a **Revelation** from the Father!

Note: The ONLY way we know Jesus is through a Revelation of Him that can only come from Father G-d directly or by His Spirit!

John The Baptist Gave Us The Pattern

The first sign that you have a TRUE Revelation of Jesus is your WITNESS!
Selah...

“Come Away From The Tomb”

Only Dead Things Are In Tombs

The End