



GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE -- JESUS' BAPTISM."

Introduction:

- A. In This Sermon We Examine The Event That Announced To The World Who Jesus Was And Initiated Or Launched His Earthly Ministry.

- B. **(Slide #2)** Text: Matt. 3:13-17 “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?’ ¹⁵But Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he allowed Him. ¹⁶When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”

I. (Slide #3) The Ministry Of John The Baptizer.

- A. Remember That He Was Conceived And Born To Be The Forerunner Of The Messiah!
 - 1. O.T. Prophets foretold the forerunner!
 - a. Isaiah had prophesied about him and his work:
 - 1. “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’” Mt. 3:3; Mk. 1:2,3
 - 2. Lk. 3:4-6 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; ⁶And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”
 - b. Malachi had also told of one who would come before the Messiah. “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,’ Says the LORD of hosts.” Mal. 3:1
 - 2. He was “sent from God” -- he had a mission that was God-planned and God-given! Jn. 1:6

3. John knew his mission and role -- he was not the Messiah; he knew that!
 - a. Jn. 1:7-23 ⁷“This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. ⁹That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” ¹⁶And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. ¹⁹Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ²¹And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ And he answered, ‘No.’ ²²Then they said to him, ‘Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?’ ²³He said: ‘I am *‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the LORD, ’*’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”
 1. His mission:
 - a. To bear witness to the Messiah [to testify about who the Messiah truly is]! 7,8
 1. He did not exalt himself.
 2. He was not that Light!
 - b. To exalt Him as “the Light!” 9
 1. Why?
 2. Because people did not know who He was!
 3. He came to the very world He created!
 - a. “the world was made through Him.” 10
 - b. “He came to His own [“things” -- the very things He created!] 11
 - c. He was in the world; the world did not know who He was and did not accept Him! “His own” [Masculine Greek word -- “His own people” -- the Jews rejected Him.] 11
 2. Jesus as “the Light” gave insight into the Godhead and to Their Will and guided them into how they could become the “children of God!” 12,13
 - c. To cause people to believe in Him.

2. Jesus, a Divine Being, literally lived in flesh and exuded the glory, the mind, and the heart of God! 14,18
 3. John declared that Jesus was the One about whom he had previously prophesied! He has brought a New Covenant, not the Covenant of Moses! 15-18
 4. When Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to question John, he declared that he was NOT the Christ, Elijah, or THE prophet! He was the forerunner of the Messiah about whom Isaiah had prophesied! 19-23
- B. The Time Of The Beginning Of His Ministry: Lk. 3:1,2 “Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.”
1. This passage gives insight into the time frame when John’s ministry began -
- imperial ruler (Emperor); regional rulers (Governor and Tetrarchs); and religious authorities (Annas and Caiaphas as High Priests of the Jews).
 2. This would have been somewhere around A.D. 27, 28, or 29.
- C. (►) His Ministry Was Conducted In The Wilderness Of Judea. Mt. 3:1; Mk. 1:4
1. He was an itinerant preacher:
 - a. Mt. 3:4 “John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.”
 - b. Mk. 1:6 “Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
 2. People went out from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan. Mt. 3:5; Mk. 1:5
- D. His Call To The Jews -- “Repent, For The Kingdom Of Heaven Is At Hand!” Mt. 3:2
1. John was telling them that the kingdom was about to come into existence!
 2. “Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance!” Mt. 3:8; Lk. 3:8
 - a. He is telling them to show by their actions that they have truly repented.
 - b. Their response to John’s preaching and to His exaltation of Jesus would show if they truly did repent.

3. When people came to be baptized by him, he called specific groups to repent of their sins!
 - a. Pharisees and Sadducees:
 1. He called them a “Brood of vipers!” Mt. 3:8; Lk. 3:7
 2. They are facing God’s wrath! Mt. 3:7; Lk. 3:7,10
 3. He told them that they should not rely upon being Abraham’s children! Mt. 3:9; Lk. 3:8
 - a. God has the power to raise up children from these stones! Mt. 3:9; Lk. 3:8
 - b. The ax is laid to the root of your society! Mt. 3:10; Lk. 3:9
 - c. Every tree that does not bear fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire! Mt. 3:10; Lk. 3:9
 - b. The people: “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.” Lk. 3:10,11
 - c. Tax Collectors: “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.” Lk. 3:12,13
 - d. Soldiers: “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.” Lk. 3:14
 4. They confessed their sins. Mt. 3:6; Mk. 1:5
- E. His Mission Contrasted With The Mission Of The Messiah:
1. The people were questioning WHO John was! “Is he the Christ or not?” Lk. 3:15
 2. John’s answers:
 - a. Mt. 3:11,12 “¹¹I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”
 - b. John could not hold a candle to the coming Messiah!
 1. Mt. 3:11 “He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.”
 2. Mk. 1:7 “And he preached, saying, ‘There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.’”
 3. He baptized people in water; the contrast: BUT, the Messiah will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16

4. He will clean out the threshing floor, gather the wheat into the barn but He will also burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire! Mt. 3:12; Lk. 3:17
 - a. He is going to take out the real seed! (the people with pure hearts).
 - b. He will burn chaff (the impure and unbelieving) with unquenchable fire!
- F. He Baptized Them. Mt. 3:6
1. He preached a “baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” Mk. 1:4; Lk. 3:3
 2. John baptized with water. Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16
 3. He baptized them in the Jordan River. Mk. 1:5; Lk. 3:21
- G. **(Slide #4)** John’s Baptism -- The Baptism That He Commanded:
1. Ordained By God. Mt. 21:24
 2. Immersion.
 3. In Water.
 4. Preceded By Repentance. Mk. 1:4; Mt. 3:2,8
 5. For Remission Of Sins. Mk. 1:4
 6. In View Of A COMING Messiah!
 7. No Accompanying Supernatural Gifts.
 8. It Ended With The Proclamation Of The Baptism That Jesus Taught And Commanded!
- H. Later, Herod Put John In Prison Because He Rebuked Herod For “Stealing” Herodias, His Brother Philip’s Wife And For All The Other Evils He Had Done. Lk. 3:19,20

II. (Slide #5) Jesus Baptized By John The Baptizer!

- A. **(Slide #6)** Text: Mk. 1:9-11 “It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”

- B. Events At Jesus' Baptism:
1. Jesus was living in Nazareth of Galilee. Mk. 1:9
 2. He traveled from Nazareth to the Jordan River. Mt. 3:13
 3. When John saw Jesus approaching, he declared,
 - a. "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Jn. 1:29
 - b. And he identified Jesus: "³⁰This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." Jn. 1:30-31
 4. John was very resistant and refused to baptize Jesus.
 - a. Mt. 3:14 "¹⁴And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?'"
 - b. He felt SO unworthy to baptize Jesus.
 5. Jesus URGED John to baptize Him!
 - a. Mt. 3:15 "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."
 - b. Jesus was NOT baptized because He had personal sin; He was baptized because this was a command from God for the Jews; He therefore was amenable to it.
 6. **(Slide #7)** John acquiesced!
 - a. Mt. 3:15 "Then he allowed Him."
 - b. John relented and baptized Jesus.
 - c. **(Slide #8)** Unbiblical pictures describe this baptism as John merely pouring a small cup of water on Jesus. This is "Fake News!"
 - d. John immersed Jesus!
 7. **(Slide #9)** As Jesus came out of the water, two amazing events occurred!
 - a. The heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him, and remaining upon Him (Lk. 3:32). Mt. 3:16; Lk. 3:21,22; Lk. 3:32 [John immediately knew that this was the Son of God! Lk. 3:32-34 "³²And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.'"]
 - b. The Father forcefully declared from Heaven: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Mt. 3:17; Lk. 3:22

- C. (Slide #10) John Immediately Began To Proclaim Jesus As The “Lamb Of God!”
1. Jn. 1:35-37 “³⁵Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples.
³⁶And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God!’
³⁷The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.”
 2. And John saw the absolute need to exalt Jesus and His ministry! Jn. 3:30
“He must increase, but I *must* decrease.”
 3. Because of the events at His baptism, we KNOW that Jesus IS the Christ the Son of God.
 4. Will you confess that fact as you proceed to be baptized?
 5. Anyone who sees this event and then listens to the commands of Jesus will KNOW that baptism is ABSOLUTLEY ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION -- It is THE POINT at which the Blood of Jesus washes away the sinner’s sins!
 6. And Christians, will we confess this fact by our affirmations and our lives: “Behold the Lamb of God!” “Jesus IS The Christ, The Son of the Living God!”