



# Class 4 - Chapter 1 – Part 3

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# John 1:15 – John the Baptist - Witness

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- John the Baptist is mentioned in all 4 Gospels
- In a society where age bestowed honour, and since John was older and came before Jesus, some may have thought John the Baptist was greater than Jesus.
- John insists here that this is not so, Jesus has surpassed him, precisely because He came before him.
- Pre-existence is implied
- By placing this summary of the Baptist's witness here, this is identifying Jesus as the Word-made-flesh as prophesied over 300 times in the Old Testament.

# John 1:18

**“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”**

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- **“No one has seen God at any time”** - While v. 14 alludes to Exodus 33-34 where Moses saw God’s glory, Moses himself was not allowed to see God (Ex. 33:20 - “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”), but saw His afterglow, or a diminished form of God (Num. 12:8). (Is. 6:5)
- While “no one has seen God”, 6:46 adds “except the one who is from God.”
- **“Begotten Son”**, the incarnate Word (v.14), just as in v.1 is God, and also at the Father’s side (John 6:46; 14:9 “Anyone who has seen Me, has seen the Father.”)
- **“in the bosom of the father”** is translated “who is at the Father’s side” in the NIV (and means “WITH GOD” like in v.1), and is similar to the expression in Luke 16:22-23 (Lazarus/Abraham) and Luke 13:23. Conveys intimacy, mutual love and knowledge.
- V.18 forms a literary envelope around all of v.1-18 - both talk about the revelation of the Word as the ultimate disclosure of God Himself.
- **The term “Word” does not recur again in John**, since John wanted this title for Jesus to sum up the whole book, and not be confused with other titles.

# Section 2 - John 1:19-37

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## The First Witness of Jesus John the Baptist

### This Section Deals with 3 Days in John the Baptist's Life

- **Day 1** – v.19 – Testimony to Jews & Levites (Sanhedrin) – “**He’s here**”
- **Day 2** – v.29 – Testimony to the People - “**Behold Him**”
- **Day 3** – v.35 – Testimony to John’s disciples - “**Follow Him**”

John 1:19-28

# The First Witness of Jesus

## John the Baptist

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- The Prologue told us the Baptist came as a **WITNESS**
- This gives the Baptist's witness he gave to the official Jewish delegations of priests (sent by Pharisees – v.24), from Jerusalem – not mentioned in other Gospels.
- John is not interested in the history of the Baptist, but in **HIS TESTIMONY**
- The Baptist's significance to the story is massive, since he was "**SENT FROM GOD**", commissioned like Moses and the Prophets. (Luke 7:28 "...no one among those born of women is greater than John", included in all 4 Gospels)

# John the Baptist - Summary

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- John was miraculously conceived by Elizabeth, a relative of Jesus; filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb (Luke 1:13-15)
- John prepared the hearts of the people with the message of repentance and declared the arrival of the King of Israel.
- John baptised for 6 months prior to baptizing Jesus, and 6 months after, and then was beheaded 6 months later.
- John is like Elijah – **2 Kings 1:8; Mal. 4:5; Luke 1:17**
- We are also told that Elijah will be one of the prophets that fulfils this role at the time of Christ's return. **Mal. 4:5–6 (Day of Lord)**

## John 1:19-21

# The Testimony of John the Baptist

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The Jewish religious delegation needed an answer as to who the Baptist was given his popularity, prophecies and potential threat to the authorities.

1. **“Who are you?”** (v.19)
  - John replied **“I am not the Christ”** – implying that their question was considering if this may be who he was.
2. **“Are you Elijah?”** (v.21)
  - Based on prophesy of Malachi 3:1 (**1<sup>st</sup> Coming**); 4:5 (**2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**)
  - The Baptist’s appearance was similar to Elijah (Mark 1:6)
  - John replied **“I am not”** (Luke 1:17 it says John was “in the spirit and power of Elijah”; in the 2nd coming, Elijah will come as witness)
3. **“Are you the Prophet”** (v.21)
  - From the prophesy of Moses in Deut. 18:15-18 about a prophet like him who would come. John Replied **“NO”**

➤ **John quotes Isaiah 40:3, declaring himself to be the prophesied messenger of the Messiah!!** (all 4 Gospels quote Is. 40:3)

# John 1:23– Prophecy Fulfilled!

## Prophesied Messenger of the Messiah – used in all 4 Gospels

### Isaiah 40:3

Exodus Symbolism

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Commonly done to prepare for a royal visit, metaphor for repentance.

Very Significant – John the Baptist is the messenger of GOD, who is Jesus

### Malachi 3:1

“Behold, I send **My (GOD)** messenger, And he will prepare the way before **Me (GOD)**  
And the Lord, whom you seek, **will suddenly come to His temple** (exactly where Jesus went 1<sup>st</sup> in John 2) Even the **Messenger of the covenant**, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts.



# John 1:25 – “Why do you baptize?”

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- The OT spoke of spiritual cleansing in connection with the Messiah (**Ezek. 36:25, 33, 37:23; Zech. 13:1**).
- Jews baptized proselytes only (Gentile converts to Judaism) but **John was shockingly baptizing Jews**. Religious leaders viewed the Jews as already God’s kingdom people and not in need of baptism.
- John’s first emphasis here is simple: **PREPARE YOUR HEARTS BECAUSE THE MESSIAH IS HERE**
- John’s baptism was for **repentance of sin** (**Mark 1:4**), which was a public expression of their acknowledgement of sin and their need for forgiveness.

# REPENTANCE

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- **Repentance** literally means **TO CHANGE ONE'S MIND** about your **ATTITUDE** towards God, self, sin and Christ.
- Repentance is the sinner's recognition & acknowledgement that they are lost, helpless and in need of grace, in light of God's holiness. Grace and Truth must never be separated.
- It must be produced by the Holy Spirit and often effected by preaching of the Word, like John the Baptist was doing.
- Jesus tells every sinner in Luke 13:3 “**Except you repent (change your ATTITUDE), you will perish.**”
- See [www.crossroadoftruth.org](http://www.crossroadoftruth.org) “Sin & Repentance” notes for more information on repentance.  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ce606228f647a00015de8b3/t/5ceb5fd6eef1a12ecede1f15/1558929366663/SIN+%26+Repentance.pdf> : Rom 3:23; 6:23; Prov 28:13; Luke 13:3, 24:46-48; 2 Cor. 7:10; Mark 2:17

# Discussion Questions - Repentance

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- Do you sometimes feel like your **heart** is filthy, disturbed, guilty, sorrowful about disobeying God, or just that something is wrong?
- Do you look for excuses to defend yourself, comparing yourself to others, rather than judging yourself and realizing you have sin in your heart that needs forgiveness from God (i.e. pride, selfishness, anger, lust, etc.)?
- How do you think people who don't know Christ would respond if you told them this Truth?
- Are you prepared to tell people you love this truth, even if they are offended or mock you? (or are you ashamed of the Gospel? – Mark 8:38)

## John 1:29

# “The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sins of the world!”

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- The sacrificial lamb was a familiar concept - all through Israel’s history God had revealed that sin and separation from Him could be removed only by **blood sacrifices** (Lev. 17:11)
- Forgiveness of sin was only granted by an acceptable substitute dying as a sacrifice.
- God provided a lamb in place of **Abraham’s** sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22:7-8), on the very same mountain (area) Jesus was crucified and where the Temple Mount is today.
- Lamb was sacrificed at **Passover** to commemorate deliverance from slavery (Ex. 12:1; Mark 14:12). (10<sup>th</sup> plague was “passed over” by the blood of the Lamb on the doorpost)
- **Daily sacrifices** offered in the tabernacle and temple (Ex/ 29:38-42)
- **Day of Atonement** Sacrifices – once per year (to appease the wrath of God and provide for the forgiveness of sin)
- Isaiah’s prophecy compared the Messiah to a “**lamb led to slaughter**” (Is. 53:7)
- The “**LAMB OF GOD**” foreshadows Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross for sin of the world. “It is finished”. The final sacrifice, the final Passover.

# John 1:29-45

## Titles Given to Jesus

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- Lamb of God (v.29)
- Rabbi (v.38, 39)
- Messiah (v.41)
- Son of God (v.34,49)
- King of Israel (v.49)
- **Jesus Christ** (v.45)
- Son of Joseph (v.45)
- Him whom Moses & Prophets wrote (v.45)
- Son of Man (v.51)

**Jesus** - His human name (in Hebrew it's "**Yehoshua**" which means **salvation**, Math. 1:21)

**Christ** - is His royal title for **Messiah** or **Anointed King** who God promised would come to Judge and save His people (Ezekiel 34: 20-31)

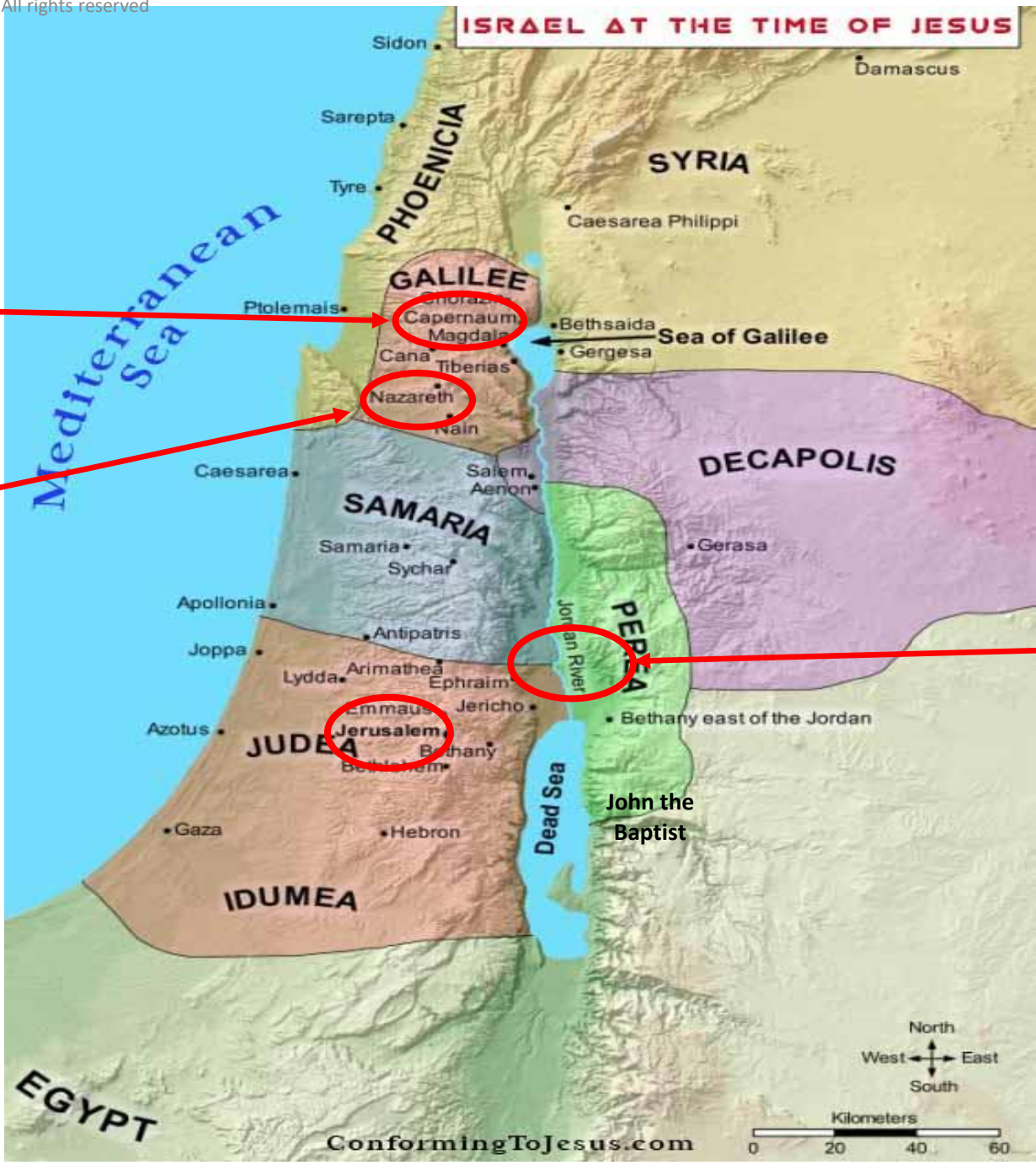
## John 1:19-37

# The Baptist's Witness

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- **This is the testimony of the last OT prophet and the greatest man ever born to woman.**
- Jesus was already baptised by John prior to this account in the Gospel of John (v.31-32 indicates).
- V.32 “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove”
  - This was the supernatural proof that Jesus was the Messiah and was given to the Baptist through divine revelation. (Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22)
- V.34 **“And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”**

# ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS



Where Jesus performed many miracles & teachings

Nazareth  
 Jesus hometown prophesized in Is. 9:1  
 (where Mary & Joseph came after leaving Bethlehem to go to Egypt until the death of Herod the Great – pop. of 500, 25 miles from Capernaum)

John the Baptist preaching repentance for remission of sin

## John 1:33 – Baptism of Holy Spirit

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**33** I 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.**’

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- **Mark 1:8** “I indeed baptized you with water, **but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**”



# John 1:33 – Baptism of Holy Spirit

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- **Messianic reference to the prophesied outpouring of the Spirit fulfilled at Pentecost – New Covenant**
  - **Ezekiel 36:25-27; Jer. 31:31-34; Joel 2:28-32**
    - **Ezek 36:25-27** <sup>25</sup> Then **I will sprinkle clean water on you, ...<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; ...<sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes...**”
    - **Jer. 31:31-34** I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel... I will **put my law in their inward parts**, and write it in their hearts... **I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**
  - **Happens at Salvation, the moment you accept Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you receive the Holy Spirit.**

# John 1:33 – Baptism of Holy Spirit

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- **Happens at Salvation, the moment you accept Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you receive the Holy Spirit.**
- **Water baptism** (public profession of faith in Christ) **is only a symbol of spiritual baptism** (washing away of sin & dying and rising with Christ).
- Water baptism is not a means of salvation, but a demonstration of it, and is commanded of believers (1 Cor. 1:13-17; Eph 4:5; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16).
- Baptism means to place a person into a new environment or into **union** with something to permanently alter their condition.
- **When we are baptized into Christ, we are permanently immersed into Him, to be made one with Him.**
- **You die to sin and live in newness of life “in Christ”–Rom. 6:3-11**

# Jesus Baptism

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- Being lowered into water and then rising again is symbolic of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Jesus' baptism (**Mark 1:9-11**) marks the beginning of His public ministry and is one of the 5 major milestone events of His life, the others being the **Transfiguration, the Cross, the Resurrection and the Ascension**.
- **Miraculous revealing of the Trinity & Anointing of the Spirit**- Mark 1:10-11
- **Heavens torn open** signifies the doors of heaven were opened (Is. 64:1; Ez. 1:1; Rev. 4:1) and that a new Kingdom Age has begun. It also prepares for the veil of the temple being "torn in two" (Mark 15:28).
- **Spirit descending like a dove** – At creation, the Spirit was hovering over the water" (Gen 1:2), and here we have a new creation to inaugurate the age of salvation.
- **"You are My Beloved Son in whom I am well Pleased"** –Psalm 2:7 (Messianic King from David) and Isaiah 42:1 (chosen one , well pleased). God affirms Jesus is the royal Messiah who will bring salvation.

# Baptism of Jesus - Why?

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## 1. Identifies with Sinners (as He would on the Cross)

Is. 53:12 “And He was numbered with the transgressors” (although He had no sin to repent of – which is why John didn’t want to baptize Jesus-Matt 3:13)

## 2. Symbol of Redemptive Act Required by God

- **Matt. 3:13-15** “**to fulfill all righteousness**”
- To bring completion to God’s plan of redemption for the need of the people to be made “right” with God. The righteous requirement of God’s law was death as payment for sin, which Jesus paid on the Cross. God required it, and Jesus obeyed the Father.

## 3. Symbolized looking forward to the Cross

Jesus later refers to His death & resurrection as a baptism (**Mark 10:38-39; Rom. 6:3-4**)

**Baptism in the Holy Spirit**  
(indwelling)

**Our True Identity**  
("in Christ" – not Adam – no more Sin Nature)

**New Creation, Perfect, Holy, Blameless**

# Eternal Realm

Spiritual – Unseen, Eternal, Timeless  
Ultimate Reality—the Kingdom of God

**Alive In Christ**

We are **Justified & Declared Righteous**

**Spiritual**

**FAITH Required**

# Natural Realm

Physical/Earthly – Seen & Temporary  
Creation Realm – birth-life-death

**Dead in Sin (Adam)**

**Carnal**

**Sins**

**Baptised in Water**  
(symbol of identification with Christ)

We are in the process of being **Sanctified** in the Flesh.

**We Live in Both Realms, but Col. 3:2 "Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things"**

John 1:35-51  
**Jesus' First Words Spoken**

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**WHAT DO YOU SEEK?**

**COME AND SEE**

**FOLLOW ME**

## John 1:35-51

# Jesus' First Words Spoken

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- **Salvation Paradox** – Salvation is a divine act provided by God (by grace not of works), however, humans have the personal responsibility to Repent & Believe in Christ (Free will)
- **“What do you seek?”**
  - **The Critical Question** – what do you really want out of life?
  - Jesus knew that they had already been convicted of their sin and sought forgiveness and righteousness the Messiah would bring. They wanted eternal life.
  - **Job 25:4** – “How then can a man be righteous/justified with God? **Rom. 3:21-22** gives the answer.

## John 1:35-51

# Jesus' First Words Spoken

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- **“Come and see”** – Intellectual knowledge of Jesus is not enough, you must **“taste and see”** (**Psalm 34:8**). The honest, sincere seeker will always find Him (Jesus will not commit to the insincere - John 2:23-25; Matt 7:21-23; Luke 13:25-27)
  - **Deut 4:29** – “But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
  - **1 Chron 28:9** – “...If you seek Him, He will be found by you;
  - **Jer 29:13** – And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- **“Follow Me”** – obey – more on this later



# **GREAT SUMMARY OF v.1-14**

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**JESUS IS GOD!!**

# **GREAT SUMMARY OF v.2-51**

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**MAKE A DECISION  
TO  
FOLLOW JESUS**

**Salvation Requires  
that You Believe  
Jesus is God!**

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**Salvation Requires  
that You Make a Decision to  
Follow Jesus  
(Repent)**