



The Baptizer honors

Christ

The Baptizer honors Christ

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Today the Apostle John details for us the second of three consecutive interviews with this one being again the subject of John the Baptist. Of course this is after Messiah Christ had completed His conversation with Israel's teacher Master Nicodemus.

This was during the Lords first Pilgrimage to Temple in Jerusalem in order to celebrate Passover after Jesus's public Ministry had commenced.

✠ After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³ Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. ²⁴ (This was before John was put in prison.)

John 3:22-24 NIV

Now here we get the opportunity to split a scriptural hair.

What I'm getting at is this: Soon we will find within John chapter 4 that John our Revelating Apostle does state that it was by Christ's Disciples who were with Jesus at this time & place whom were actually performing the Baptizing.

This is true as by the time we reach the conclusion of this Biblical narrative, but remember John just stated for us that Jesus "tarried" as the King James says it, or "continued" with His Disciples for awhile as it is written within the original Greek.

But take a look again of how this section of scripture does begin-

Verse 22 concludes with a direct quote from John who says that it was Jesus who was Baptizing. Almost every Biblical authority goes directly to the conclusion of this time period and makes the assumption that Jesus did not Baptize anyone in this place. Even though at the onset of this Discourse (vs 22 above) John plainly speaks it was by Christ who initially Baptized.

What I'm getting at is this:

Question? Would not Jesus have had to first instruct His Disciples " How " to Baptize before they could properly Baptize in Jesus name for themselves.

Then, when- John's Gospel account concludes concerning this event within chapter 4, we are informed that it is indeed "then" by the followers of Jesus Christ whom are Baptizing in His name. It just makes sense to take the Word of GOD literally here as in the scripture says that it was Jesus Baptizing at this point, while a few verses later in chapter 4- a mere bit of time later, scripture also states by then it was the Disciples who were then doing the Baptizing in Jesus's presence.

It just seems generations of Biblical Theologians have missed the obvious simple answer that this is "when" Jesus taught His Believers how to Baptize in the name of the Father, & the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. How do we know? Because John just said so- & he was there.

Also again we must remember that it was we in the 16th century- who added chapter and verse numbers unto the Holy Bible for easier reference of recall. Meaning John's writings did not divide the details of these events at all. It was us who did that.

Ok continuing on; after Passover Jesus returned to the vicinity of John the Baptist.

He did not have too- but here that He did also just makes sense.

So lets pay attention as we forge ahead with the details of the conversation of the Baptizer.

✝ An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.

John 3:25-26 NIV

This Passover now past did mark a turning point for Jesus & John the Baptist.

The Baptizer will literally rejoice that his life's purpose is now complete and we will see that the Baptist will now say he must decrease and Jesus His Christ must increase.

Meaning of course the torch has been passed from the lamp in the darkness- who was John the Baptist, unto the light of the world, Jesus the Christ of Life.

Why? Else would Jesus have returned close to the Baptizer and actually begin to teach and preach upon Baptism so near to His standard bearer John the Baptist. It was time- for John to step aside, to lead his sheep permanently into the Heavenly flock of the Good Shepherd Christ our Lord.

Also did you notice? The all too human reaction of John the Baptists followers at the arrival of Jesus as He too began to Baptize and draw larger crowds than John.

All too often it can be hard for us to know when it is time to let go or to move on, especially when it is in envy as we can be literally offended personally when someone else more able at this time arrives and our accepted way of doing things are coming to an end.

Then my friends we have a choice we can age gracefully ensuring the noblest qualities of our life's work endure beyond us as our gift and responsibilities unto GOD as our legacy, or we can be petty and destructive to others and ultimately ourselves. Hindering GOD'S Will and His plans.

Such were the Pharisees leading to Israel's total destruction, jealous and envious of Christ they were threatened by His distinction as the Son of GOD. But the question remains how did John the Baptist feel and respond when literally all that he had worked and lived for his entire life, had showed up at his back door Christ our Lord- & He no longer needed him as He did before. Mission accomplished.

✝ To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less."

John 3:27-30 NIV

John just said the people or the Bride, all of the people coming to him belong to Jesus the Bridegroom. Also we must realize that John the Baptist was formerly the teacher of Jesus's current student John our Gospel Apostle. Obviously after Passover and with the return of Jesus near to the Baptizer clearly Apostle John paid a visit to his former teacher the Prophet John. Otherwise how would we have these details of the reaction of John the Baptist unto the rise in popularity and Ministry of Christ our Lord?

It was with Grace and joy how the Baptizer reacted in gratitude unto the fulfillment of his life's work. Also notice John the Baptist calls himself a friend of the Bridegroom & not being of the Bride of Christ. Baptizer John may be in the New Testament but he is clearly the last of the Old Law Covenant Prophets. Get that? The promise of Messiah as taught by John the Baptist is being passed from the Old Testament into its fulfillment by Christ within the New. & no one is happier about that than John the Baptist.

The Baptist attests that all teachers like himself are subject to the GOD/man who came from above.

✝ The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

By scripture and Prayer the Baptist expects that Messiah Jesus will be rejected.

✝ ³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony.

What did Jesus see and hear? Well Heaven of course and His Father GOD Himself- actually part of Himself.

Yet some will Believe & receive GOD'S Truth- Jesus.

✝ ³³ Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful.

✝ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6 KJV

John the Baptist explains in one simple statement John/Jesus 3:16- because GOD so loves also His Son.

✝ ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. John 3:31-36 NIV

Jehovah Almighty bestowed all of His authority upon His Divine human Son Jesus our Savior. Because now and forever more He is one of us- human. So when someone rejects Jesus as their Lord & Savior they are also choosing to remain and to live in sin. As such they thusly deny themselves the restored Spiritual life found only in Jesus as their Christ. Which means for them- sadly they shall never enter into Heavens Gates and Hell forever does await. Now here as promised is the conclusion of the completion of John the Baptist's ministry. When the word began to spread that Jesus was each endorsed and recommended by John the Baptist, & that Christ our Lord was by His Words & miracles was far eclipsing the Baptizer in making Disciples:

✝ Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— ² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. John 4:1-2 NIV

Jesus's Disciples at this time were properly trained & now they were the ones doing the Baptizing. So with His teaching complete and with John the Baptists concluding Testimony, our Savior Christ Jesus led His followers for the time being out of the reach of the Pharisees in Jerusalem- & ultimately into the hearts and minds of His Faithful forever.

Baptizing all in the name of the Father ~and of the Son ~ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Baptism began at the initial Church Age Pentecost (Act 2:38 & 41) as a rite of passage forever linked with our repentance from Sin, our redemption by Christ, and our reception of the Holy Spirit.

More on Baptism can be found within the "Jesus Time " lesson titled : Jesus is Baptized.