



Jesus is  
**Baptized**

## Jesus is Baptized

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

✠ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. Matthew 3:13-14 NIV

We have had the privilege to have addressed this situation before within a previous class of how John the Baptist by possibly three means of recognition had recognized Jesus as the Christ before Jesus was revealed unto the world.

The first choice is of course was by the Holy Spirit- John just knew.

Our second educated guess of how John knew it was actually Jesus who needed to Baptize him was by His family tree.

As in John's parents had indeed trained John to know that the Messiah- GOD born in human flesh was born through their relative whom we know as the virgin Mary.

While our third possible answer is that it may simply be that as family John did know Jesus and as such Jesus had already lived by example and had a reputation of righteousness so that the Baptizer was simply stunned when Jesus come to him for Baptism.

For John just knew that Jesus was much closer to GOD than he.

Personally I do believe it was a little bit of each of these three reasons.

If we think about it with John living in the wilderness for most likely from a younger age than we imagine because each of John's parents were advanced in years at his birth-

This means John knew his purpose as the one to prepare the way of the Lord and through his parents John knew His Lord was born of Mary & again the Holy Spirit was preparing John for his task.

What I'm getting at is this: perhaps John had seen or heard rumors as too Jesus's GODLY life & character previously at family holidays or gatherings at the required Jewish festivals.

However it is also likely that at this time it had also been awhile since John had last seen Jesus but clearly from these passages it is certain that John the Baptist did indeed recognize Jesus and he obviously knew Him as our one and only Christ.

This also raises two very important Theological questions.

The First: What is Baptism? & Secondly: Why? would Jesus as a Sinless human being even need to be Baptized by John who was himself a sinner.

Baptism is considered to be a Holy Sacrament of an outward sign of our inner Blessing as in a public example of our Faith in which we are demonstrating our cleansing from our Sin and thusly our rebirth into a new Spiritual life found and founded within Christ Jesus.

John the Baptist fully immersed an individual under water to symbolize each purification from ones previous sin and as a public example of a persons dedication of their life unto the Lord. Immersion for the participant is very symbolic of a literal Spiritual rebirth as in Born Again. Today each full immersion or the application of water are common for this Sacrament.

In John the Baptist day only Gentile Proselyte's as in converts to Judaism had to be Baptized and then they thusly became known as "reborn." A term in which Jesus will use time and again for the Jews to comprehend Him.

The Mishna or oral Jewish traditions dates this ceremony of conversion to just before the time of Christ. Meaning it had to have been the Pharisees themselves whom initiated this practice unto non Jewish converts. For the record; A Gentile covert was still not allowed to enter any further within the Temple complex of Jerusalem than the outer court of the Gentiles.

However within their local communities a convert was welcomed, encouraged, and expected as in required to attend Synagogue. Now being such a person charitable activities called "Alms" -giving was a common position for Proselytes to participate in because it did not involve preaching or the religious teaching of adults nor the education of the young. This included each financial assistance as well as working at charitable activities.

Further any Jew who married a Gentile whom had converted to Judaism their children; their line was called "profane." As such they were not recognized as Jewish and they too would be relegated unto the minimal aspects of acceptance into Jewish life and culture.

Also many lower or middle echelon Priests who were older or a widower in life would often take for wife a Gentile female convert because he had already fulfilled his Temple duties and had his quote "pure children."

The reason for this was two fold:

The first is again it was the lower priests whom actually cared for the people and often they simply saw the outright abuse and disregard for converts and in time if their life permitted the priest extended what was for him in their culture a mercy of Biblical example unto a devoted converted Gentile unmarried or widowed woman.

The second reason was with nothing left to lose & his savings complete, it afforded an older established man the opportunity to once again secure for himself a much younger wife.

She, the Gentile convert Priestly wife immediately gained a much easier and superior lifestyle.

This be for each herself and any children she had or would have with the Priest.

The Priest was virtually guaranteed to never suffer any type of betrayal from his Proselyte wife because for her the penalty of even being suspected of betraying a priest for any reason whatsoever, even unto a Priest within a marriage of disgrace, to a profane converted Gentile woman her sentence was death.

In short Jewish widows & widowers each had certain Jewish rights from their past lives moving forward. When a retired widower Priest married a convert he did not have to contend with her Jewish rights. This being her marital provisions and requirements, debts, commitments, or entitlements at this point in his life. Basically a Jewess had rights, whereas a converted Proselyte Gentile women had almost none.

Likewise many widowed Jewish women and it is sad to say there were far too many because it was customary for a young Jewish woman to marry a more mature established Jewish man, this be in order to provide for her and their children. This served the wife well while she was young but often left her alone as she aged.

However unlike ancient times by the time of Jesus by each Israeli and Roman Law upon her husbands death by his will the widow could now gain all of his assets & it is true that over 1/3 of all the property in Israel at the time of Christ was in fact owned by widowed Jewish women.

Most of these Jewish women had property ownership rights guaranteed in their pre marital dowery or what we would call today a prenuptial agreement. Scribes and Pharisees used excessive taxes and fee's to in effect seize many a Jewish widows assets, which is why many often remarried to avoid such liens and charges.

It should also be noted here that it was also a common Jewish practice for a mother to bequeath her property rights unto her daughters since gaining property & wealth was far easier for her male children. Likewise mothers often had lifelong social & moral control over their sons on demand even above their wife's wishes. We will get a glimpse of this when we see such at Jesus first miracle of changing the water to wine at the wedding in Cana.

Also responsibility for their mother's care in Israel fell legally unto her sons at their fathers death.

Sometimes if the now widowed woman's father was still alive or if his current wife became sickly, the widowed daughter could return home & care for their "Abba" her father while she still retained all of her property & rights.

In short; if not remarried a widowed Jewess could lease or rent her property as income as she spent her time amongst various family. Yes, it was expected for her to remarry however the choice was hers alone.

Some were widowed perhaps even as young as their late twenties or early thirties.

And finally any Gentile (non-Jew) convert to Judaism as such they were expected to immediately leave behind as in to excommunicate to never have any more contact for any reason of any friends or family members of their previous life whom themselves were not also converts to Rabbinic Judaism.

Once converted a male Proselyte was circumcised, and all were baptized, and required to offer sacrifices.

Now back to John our Baptizer being asked by Christ to Baptize Him:

Within the "Antiquities of Josephus" the Jewish political historian Vol.: XVIII.v.2~117.

Josephus verifies for us the Biblical narrative of John the Baptist for he states that John's Baptism differed from the Pharisees symbolic Gentile Proselyte's conversion ceremony. For John's Baptism:

Stipulated that everyone including the Jew, had to be cleansed from Sin. Not just to be converted for worship unto Israel's GOD Jehovah. But to ALSO be prepared to enter into GOD'S coming Kingdom, as in to be made ready to receive "Thy Kingdom Come" of GOD. (Thy Kingdom Come of our Lord Jesus Prayer)

Now there are a couple of reasons as to why Jesus did say that it was proper "To fulfill all righteousness" as in WHY it was ok for John the Baptist as a sinner to Baptize Jesus the only sinless man.

The primary reason for Jesus' Baptism was of course dates all the way back to the days of Moses; as it was customary by scripture per Leviticus 8:6 for a Priest to be sanctified as in set apart and Baptized for GOD'S service before his public ministry begins meaning this be by a Priest's commissioning.

So this was in fact Jesus starting point of His public ministry at the correct Jewish Priestly age of 30. Jesus' ministry of course was for Him our Lord as Christ to take upon His Sinless Self the Sin of the world.

This is how John the Baptist Baptized- to prepare ones heart, mind, and soul, to repent of our Sin in order to be able to receive GOD'S Thy Kingdom come.

Of course this WAS the purpose of Jesus our Christ which means the Anointed one of GOD, as GOD and a man, our Messiah or Savior who saves us from ourselves. Jesus pays our Sin debt unto His Father. As in our Sin before a Holy, Pure, and Just GOD Jehovah. This was done at Jesus first Coming of Advent. It will be Jesus Second Coming Advent that ultimately initiates and installs GOD'S Thy Kingdom Come.

Only those found in Christ when we are Spiritually restored by GOD'S Grace alone, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ alone, these are the only ones to receive by their Faith of Belief GOD'S Thy Kingdom Come.

By each the Old Testament standards of the defining of GOD'S Law, and now at Jesus New Testament commission of GOD'S Love, all demands & requirements of GOD'S Law, and now by the Grace of GOD in Christ, our relationship each individually & collectively between us & Almighty Jehovah is forever restored. Likewise the Lord has certain expectations and requirements of behavior, responsibility, character, and obedience of all of His children. However at the time of Christ and no doubt for us believers today, Father Jehovah expects and requires better from us, those whom He grants Salvation & authority.

What I'm getting at is this:

Just as we today swear in those whom we elect to political office, this is normally done by the placing of ones hand upon a Holy Bible, by GOD'S Word the ultimate authority, and thusly people are sworn in unto a public office.

This is indeed by Biblical example.

Just as the Priestly Prophet and Judge Samuel anointed each of Israel's first two Kings Saul & David, many Biblical scholars do entertain the theory that even though the Pharisees had abandoned the correct Linage lines of David as too the throne of Israel that the Lord GOD had not.

In short just as Jesus had now been Baptized in the correct scriptural way at the age of 30, as He now begins His public ministry. It is also quite possible and highly likely that John as the last prophet of GOD had also just as likely anointed Jesus as a descendant of King David the next King of Israel.

With Jesus being the living Messiah as such He was anointed as the future living King of all of His creation.

Jesus is Baptized.

✠ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16 NIV

& there dear friends brothers and sisters in Christ is the first of two occasions in which Jehovah Almighty Himself spoke aloud from Heaven to personally identify Jesus as His Messiah. ( The second will be at Jesus ‘s Transfiguration.)  
The Bible gives to us an prediction & explanation of a combined High Priest & King of the universe it goes like this:

✠ The LORD ( GOD ) has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” ( Who was Melchizedek? ) Psalm 110:4 NIV

In Jerusalem BEFORE Aaron/Moses & the Law, rule for Jesus King & High Priest is Grandfathered or predates Levitical Law.

✠ This Melchizedek was **king** of Salem and **priest** of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “**king** of righteousness”; then also, “**king** of Salem” means “**king** of peace.” <sup>3</sup> Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, ( Jesus ) he remains a **priest** forever. Hebrews 7:1-3 NIV

Take note this passage begins by describing a man who served as our historical Biblical example of the yet future forever King & High Priest. ( Jesus ) But concludes with a reference to each Jesus’s humanity & His eternal Deity.

( The Book of Hebrews- unto the Jews who hold to Old Testament Law explains this well )

✠ If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? <sup>12</sup> For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. <sup>13</sup> He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. <sup>14</sup> For it is clear that our Lord ( Jesus ) descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. <sup>15</sup> And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, <sup>16</sup> one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. <sup>17</sup> For it is declared:

( When a High Priest dies or His term was up another was elected- Jesus has no term limit & lives eternally.)

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” (Melchizedek was before Moses & Aaron- before the Law )

<sup>18</sup> The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless <sup>19</sup> for the law made nothing perfect, and a better hope ( Jesus ) is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

<sup>20</sup> And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, <sup>21</sup> but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: ( Jesus )

Above Psalm 110:4 GOD set Jesus Time as forever.

“The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever.’”

<sup>22</sup> Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. ( Solemn Agreement )

<sup>23</sup> Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. <sup>26</sup> Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their ( our ) sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath ( Of Jehovah ), which came after the law, appointed the Son, ( of GOD who is Deity in human flesh- Jesus. ) who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 7:11-28 NIV

GOD made His legal provisions pre law & then post law He named Christ Jesus Deity & man forever as His & our King & High Priest.