

The Baptizer Explained

## T<u>he Baptizer Explaine</u>d

 $^{\circ}W$ elcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Jesus now concludes His answer to the students of John the Baptist who were inquiring at John's behest if Jesus was indeed The Christ as in the Conquering King with this formal declaration:

## 中 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me. Matthew 11:6 ESV

This indeed applies to all of GOD'S peoples of all time in all places.

Meaning many unrepentant people can and often will be challenged not only Spiritually but also intellectually and emotionally by the Biblical Gospel truth message of Jesus Christ.

Some people can truly be offended by each Jesus's moral teachings of having personal responsibility and accountability and they are more so chillingly confronted with all of the extra Biblical historical & archeological evidences that indeed prove the existence of Christ Jesus.

Make no mistake to ignore deny or oppose Jesus as ones Lord and Savior is a conscience decision.

Those in denial of GOD can or often will make lite or even fight as for their reasons. None the less-Ultimately this is between them and GOD, the very same GOD they have willfully chosen to disregard.

Children are afraid of the dark where as adults are afraid of the light of Christ! Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God. John 3:17-21 NRSVA

## Jesus Continues

When the messengers of John had gone, he began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is he of whom it is written,

'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.'

Dr Luke 7:24-27 RSV

Jesus reminds those who were present that many of them had previously went out of their way to hear John the Baptist in the remote areas preaching and teaching repentance even unto Israel. Meaning that they also need a Savior to enter into GOD'S Kingdom. By which John the Baptist had been saying was at hand for a Savior was born past tense and soon to reveal Himself being the Christ as in Jesus our Lord. It can only be by the power of the Holy Spirit that John the Baptist a remote desert preacher-literally living out in the wild had not just captivated the curiosity of Israel with his preaching and teaching but had also stirred by GOD a Spiritual revival within the hearts and minds of the Jewish Faithful.

How else would the Jewish people of Jesus Time even know that John the Baptist even existed at all.

John could have and would have preached to the sand, rocks, critters, and bugs within the remote regions of Israel until his heart was content save for the Holy Spirit awakening a desire amongst the peoples to get up and travel to him in order to hear the true meaning of the Words of GOD. Get that?

The Baptizer was teaching that the actual Word of GOD was here; alive at this time in human flesh! Now Messiah Christ has just Scripturally referenced the pre prophesized purpose of John the Baptist. Here is the Bible verse being Messianic which means an Old Testament prophecy pertaining to the coming Christ specifically in this case that Jesus just quoted as for the identity and life of the Baptizer.

Prophetic notice even clunky English roughly alludes one Lord coming twice. (change) Behold, I will send my m<u>essenge</u>r, and he shall prepare the way before me: and (then) the LORD, whom ye seek, s<u>hall suddenly com</u>e to his temple, even (change) the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, h<u>e shall com</u>e,(again) saith the LORD of hosts. Prophecy has change points Baptist come then Christ comes twice. Malachi 3:1 KJV

Malachi likewise expected two Christ's not one Savior coming twice so GOD gave him this Prophecy.

John the Baptist was Biblically predicted as a precursor to Messiah as in actually the last OT Prophet. Remember anything that contains the Presence of GOD is referenced in Scripture as being GOD'S Holy Temple. Jesus Himself stated that His human body was His Temple as in containing Him. John 2:19 The second person of Godhood the human Son of GOD being Trinity. One of Three, Three who are One.

So when we Sin we are offending Him- the Holy Spirit indwelling within us, each and every member of the body of Christ is a dedicated Temple unto our Lord.

Likewise within His human body Jesus had also visited the Temple in Jerusalem since 12 years of age.

Never forget that we as in Sinful human beings have defiled all of GOD'S Temples. (Holy Spirit aggrieved) Each and every one of them on Earth both structure and soul. 1<sup>st</sup> every Saved person that lives Sins.

Samual's sons were known for perversion injustice and the taking of bribes as judges even as they served their father in Moses/GOD'S Tabernacle.

Solomons splendid Temple was defiled by idol worship and as such was allowed to be destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

The Seleucid King Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who is an "then and again" prophetic prototype of the coming antichrist; first defiled and then desecrated the Second Temple while later as did the Roman General Pompey with just his presence within the Holy of Holies.

Each of these two were prior to Herod the Greats remodel & restoration of the Second Temple.

Which of course was as Jesus our Lord predicted to His Apostles in Matthew 24 would be destroyed stone by stone being cast down this was by Titus of Rome in 70 AD ironically on the very same date that Nebuchadnezzar did. Tisha B'Av or the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av on the Jewish calendar being early August for us.

Where as finally the future coming antichrist will violate and desecrate the soon to be built future Third Temple in Jerusalem at his coming prophetic time. Will this also be on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av? Only GOD knows.

While the very worst is of course what was done or better said what Christ our Jesus allowed to be done to Him personally-His body His Temple to be denied brutally scourged beaten mocked & crucified.

So as for us keeping tasteful reverent respectful solemn worship, we as human beings do stink.

## Jesus continues

<sup>1</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. <sup>13</sup> For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. <sup>15</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear. Matthew11: 11-15 NIV

"Born of woman" was a common phrase in Jesus Time meaning a mortal human by which we would understand it as being made only of dust from the elements of the Earth and born in Sin yet rising to influence others with a positive effect was John the Baptizer.

Which Christ Messiah is personally referencing that it was John's character, strength, obedience, and Faith that made him great. Think about that in the eyes of GOD Himself John the Baptist was considered with much favor not for any gains be they material, wealth, or power-But by being in a state of obedient Grace by striving and serving Lord Jesus.

As for the "Kingdom of Heaven " being subjected to violence here is a supreme example in which English fails to convey the full meaning and nuance of our Lord's impactful Word.

Within the Jewish New Testament Commentary (David Stern 1992) is this: (paraphrased)

The original Greek says violent ones, meaning the fallen demonic Angels and their human benefactors. I.e. those inflicting harm restricting hampering or outright destroying what is Holy- GOD's Plan through Jesus for man. (human kind)

"The Elijah who was to come" Jesus is indeed referencing the mighty Old Testament Prophet Elijah the Biblical zenith of the Prophets who was taken alive (Raptured) to Heaven (2 Kings) & predicted to return to the Earth to prepare the "Way" (hearts & minds) of the people for the coming Christ.

"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.
He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the land with complete destruction."

Ok, now it gets rough!

This entire lesson it has been stressed just how important it is to rightly divide the exacting words and turning change points within the Prophetic passages of Holy writ scripture.

The cut to the chase straight short simple answer is this:

Notice Jesus said John the Baptist was a stand in for Elijah, a in like manor Elijah at the time of Christ's first coming of Advent.

This is because when Jesus comes again, during His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Advent- Elijah will be sent back to the Earth prior to this during the soon Tribulation time of the antichrist.

Don't take my Word for this, you just read it for yourself in GOD'S Word!

"Before the great (for us) dreadful terrible (for unbelievers/self deceivers) Day of the Lord" is ALWAYS call it what you will: Day of Wrath, Judgement, Reckoning, Atonement the Second Coming Advent of Jesus.

Meaning Elijah will certainly be one of the Two Witnesses (Rev.11) against false worship at the coming 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple in Jerusalem condemning all who reject Jesus as their Christ. (two witnesses needed for legality)

Knowing of Elijah's Prophesied return the Jewish people of Faith still to this day leave a ceremonial chair known as "Elijah's chair" open in case he arrives at each the ceremony of circumcision and at each families table during Passover just in case Elijah attends announcing the arrival of Messiah.

Personally I think the future False Prophet- the right hand man of the antichrist, who by Biblical Prophecy will be Jewish and will call himself or be claimed to be Elijah.

Finally notice Malachi was told that not all of Israel during the final battle of Armageddon will be destroyed. When Israel finally calls out to Jesus Christ at the exact moment their deceptive 7 year peace plan with the antichrist expires, Jesus will return Saving all Israel.

As in all of those Jews still alive whom call upon His Holy name.

Those who confess and accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

Much and many will be lost, but Jesus will Save those who love & need Him in Israel by His cross.

Jesus concluded this portion of His remarks by saying "whomever has ears (Spiritual) let them hear."

Note this was for the individual Jew at this time because religious and political resistance against Christ's Faithful organizing themselves at this time and place was certain.

Within Revelation chapters 2-3 Jesus ends each of His personal letters to His 7 Churches being His Bride with "let those in my Church" hear.

As in for the born again Christian.

Beginning at Revelation 4 after the Rapture of the Church, Jesus will once again begin to state for those individually "who can hear" because of the prophetic future persecution of Christian organization.