

John the Baptist and Jesus the Christ

¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,¹ 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, while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests,

² the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

³ In those days John went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,

⁴ and saying,

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! I am ‘[The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of YHWH.”](#)’²”

⁵ For this is he who was spoken of in the book of the words of Isaiah *and* is written in the Prophets, saying:

“[Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.](#)”³

⁶ “[The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of YHWH; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’](#)”⁴

⁹ Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

¹⁰ Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him in the wilderness of Judea and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

¹¹ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them *before* the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him,

“Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ¹² Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ¹³ and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁴ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁵ Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not,

¹⁶ John preached, saying to all,

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ¹⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me *and* is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to carry *or* to stoop down and loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁸ His 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.”

¹ Tiberius reckoned his reign from 12 AD. The 15th year of his reign is 27 AD.

² Isaiah 40:3

³ Malachi 3:1

⁴ Isaiah 40:3-5

¹⁹ These things were done in Bethabara⁵ beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁰ It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee to John at the Jordan.

²¹ When all the people were baptized, Jesus also *wanted* to be baptized by John.

²² And John tried to prevent Him, saying,
“I need to be baptized by You, and You are coming to me?”

²³ But 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.

²⁴ When He had been baptized in the Jordan, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, while He prayed, He saw the heavens parting and were opened to Him, and He saw the Holy Spirit of God descending in bodily form like a dove and alighting upon Him.

²⁵ Then suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying,
“**You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**”

²⁶ *After Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness,* the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,

“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ²⁷ This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ²⁸ I did not know him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”

²⁹ And John bore witness, saying,
“I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³⁰ 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 baptized with the Holy Spirit.**’ ³¹ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

⁵ Bethany, on the east side of the Jordan River.