

CHAPTER 3

[[Matthew 3:1]] In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

**Chapter 3 is within 3 1/2 years of the crucifixion and 10? years of the second coming. Daniel's 70th week is 4 years away. When Christ's ministry begins it is the 69th week (of years). He must be 30 – Jewish Law to be a priest
 $65^{\text{th}}+2 \text{ yrs} + (7 *4 +2 =30) \rightarrow 69^{\text{th}}+4 \text{ week} =30 \text{ years} - \text{different calendars in effect!}$**

So – 3 1/2 years to the crucifixion – end of 69th week, start of 70th week (a passover)

So - John the Baptist – about 69th + 3 1/2 - 6 month forerunner

So - 50 days into 70th week is Pentecost (Acts 2)

Next – The church age begins – (Acts 7)

There's some strange doctrine in early acts.

[[Matthew 3:2]] And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

A literal. physical kingdom. Israel should repent. The KOH is within ten years.

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

At the end of 70 weeks everlasting righteousness will come in and Christ will rule the kingdom.

The Messiah is cut off during the 69th week.

John is about 6 months ahead of Christ. John is the forerunner - to prepare Israel for the Messiah. If the Jews would have accepted, the kingdom would have happened then. Everyone who gets baptized under John is to reveal Christ.

John was a prophet whose own coming was prophesied by an earlier prophet over 700 years before (Isaiah 40:3-5).

This is he who was spoken of through the prophet [Isaiah](#), "A voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for The Lord, make straight paths for Him." (Matthew 3:1-3)

In declaring that *the kingdom of heaven is at hand*, John is proclaiming the nearness of the Messiah's coming; this is why He conveys such an urgency for people to get right with God.

Not to be confused with John the gospel writer, who wrote 5 books of the New Testament? John the Baptist was born into the priesthood, his father was Zacarias.

The purpose of the water baptism was to manifest the messiah to Israel.

The purpose of His baptism was for Jesus to completely identify Himself with sinful man; even as He did in His birth, His upbringing, and His death - here is Jesus again standing in the place of sinful man. Why did Jesus insist upon being baptized? Baptism usually associated with the confession of sins. Did Jesus have any sins to confess? He was sinless (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 John 3:5; John 14:30). See Isaiah 53:12: numbered with the transgressors and He made intercession for the transgressors. At John's baptism, Jesus is declaring publicly His identity with the sinner.

He's to fulfill the ministry of Elijah in relation to the second coming.

Malachi 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, [with] the statutes and judgments.

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

If Israel had accepted the message John would have been Elijah.

Matthew 11:14 And if ye will receive [it], this is Elias, which was for to come.

In other words, if Israel would receive Jesus as their Messiah, John would fulfill the promise of Elijah and all the other promises would be ushered in. This is a definite offer of the kingdom to Israel. All 12 tribes were in the land – Judaea.

There are no what if's! - fall apart? - worry

In the context of a second advent appearance at the mount of transfiguration.

Elijah's ministry could have been fulfilled in John the baptist.

Their appearance is almost identical.

If the Jew would have accepted at the first coming - John the Baptist would have fulfilled Elijah's ministry and Elijah would have fulfilled the role of Moses.

God knew ahead of time that the Jew wasn't going to accept, so He yanked Elijah up and Elijah didn't die, to come back later on.

We know that Elijah was translated, carried up to heaven bodily so that he was never buried in the earth.

2Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, [there appeared] a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

John's distinctive clothing and diet not only shows him to be a man separated from the softness and luxury of the world, but it also helps to connect him with another prophet: Elijah – 2Kings 1:8

2 Kings 1:8 we find that Elijah also dressed like John. John ate locusts and wild honey, may have been eating actual locusts or pods from the Locust tree (carob-like fruit).

God had promised that Elijah would come. Jesus says he is going to come. They ask because they haven't yet seen Elijah. Elias would have come in the person of John the Baptist and the Jews accepted the messiah. John would have fulfilled his ministry in type and Moses would have fulfilled his ministry in type. The Law and the prophets would have had a representative. He would have fulfilled the ministry of Elias had the first coming been the second coming, if Israel would have accepted the king.

The two witnesses were there for the first coming if there needed to be two witnesses. Since the Jew rejected there is no need for John the Baptist so he dies. There is no need for Jesus to fulfill the ministry of Moses so at the second coming Moses and Elijah will literally come back before the second coming. All the conditions can be met at the first coming. The offer given to the Jews is legitimate. There can be no legitimate offer of the kingdom unless there is Moses and Elijah or someone to type them. Since the Jew rejected God doesn't need to use John as a type of Elijah or Jesus as a type of Moses; He will bring them both literally at the second coming.

The prophecy of John's life and John's ministry. He would have fulfilled Elias' ministry at the first coming if there would have needed to be a fulfillment. God can set something up and it doesn't actually have to work that way and not miss any of the necessary requirements. God can work out His will and still change the events and not mess up anything! God can change the course of history and not miss anything that He predestined before time began. Calvin, his god' on the other hand, set everything up in advance and made sure it worked out. Calvin's god would have never added 15 years to Hezekiah's life.

IF, IF, IF Silly question – ‘If the Jew accepted, how would the Gentiles be part of the body?’ /* happened – the Bible is alive */

IF - the Jew would have done right: There wouldn't have to be a church age.

❖ The great tribulation would have been within 7 or 8 years.

❖ Its the 69th week now at the time of John's preaching. Calvary starts the 70th week!

The things in Revelation could have taken place early in Acts. Revelation pictures starting in time, (sequential)

❖ Gives you the tribulation (Revelation 4,5,6 and 9).

❖ The kingdom (Revelation 20).

❖ eternity (Revelation 22).

It leaves out the church age. God is waiting to see what Israel will do with the messiah and His Son. Nobody knows about the church age till Acts, about the extra 2,000 years being stuck there.

[[Matthew 3:3]] For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

'spoken of' - John

'Esaias' - Isaiah

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

- get straight

This prophecy is about what John the baptist will be doing when he shows up.

[[Matthew 3:4]] And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

'meat' - food in general

Elijah is dressed like this in 2ki 1:8.

2Kings 1:8 And they answered him, [He was] an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It [is] Elijah the Tishbite.

Both are beheaded. Both face a type of the antichrist in their ministry. Elijah faces Ahab and John the baptist faces Herod.

[[Matthew 3:5]] Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

Acts 11:20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Acts 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

The Lord's hand was in it. - needed for a revival

[[Matthew 3:6]] And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

[[Matthew 3:7]] But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of **vipers**, who hath warned you to flee from the **wrath to come?**

Pharisees = “separatists,” the legalists, the ritualists, out of them come the traditions of the Talmudic Jew.

Sadducees = liberalists, rationalists = “reformed” (modernists, humanists) denied the inspiration of the Word. They didn’t believe in the resurrection. (That’s why they are “sad-u-see.”)

The Saducees and the Pharasees weren't friendly. They were enemies. But when it comes to a common enemy, Jesus Christ, they get together. They are all self-rightous. The Pharasees hold to Biblical doctrines, but they destroy them with their own traditions. The Sadducee was a liberal, as today he doenn't use the Bible but rather man's wisdom. He is humanistic. They but get together to elimante God's truth like te Catholics and Communists today. The Herodians also attack Jesus. They all attack the Bible and the Bible believer.

'vipers' - They have been generated by a snake.

John 8:44 Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

'wrath to come' -

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

- wrath against unbeliever

A time when wrath will be poured upon the earth for the rejection of the trinity.

1Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

When the wrath comes we are gone.

[[Matthew 3:8]] Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Luke 3:8-14 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Here he talks about good works. The first fruit is repentance. They are the wrong tree because they have the wrong fruits.

If you repent you will show some good works.

To submit to John would kill their pride, would be socially unacceptable.

God picked the 'rough' John to present His son. Those who accepted were only interested in getting right with God. John the baptist didn't have any 'accreditation'. But he 'ushered' in the greatest man who ever lived.

John warns them to stop trusting in their Jewish heritage; they must truly repent, not simply trust in Abraham's merits. It was widely taught that Abraham's merits were plenty for any Jew's salvation - they couldn't go to hell; but John points out that these Pharisees and Scribes are of a different family; they are a *brood of vipers* - meaning a family associated with serpents! "Generation of vipers": To a Pharisee this refers to Gen 3:15, the seed of the serpent. He is calling them the sons of Satan!

John's baptism was one *of repentance*; in this regard, it was not identical to Christian baptism or *baptism into Christ* (Romans 6:3), which includes a demonstration of repentance and cleansing, but also recognizes the believer's identification with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4)

John warns them to prepare for the Messiah's coming, because He is coming with judgment. Baptize with the Holy Spirit: this is the promised out-pouring of the Holy Spirit promised with the New Covenant (Ezekiel 37:14). To baptize *with fire* means to bring the fires of judgment, which will purify the pure, but destroy the wicked like chaff - the worthless residue of a wheat stalk after the kernel of grain has been removed; these proud and unrepentant leaders are just as useless to God. The Jewish leaders thought that the Messiah would come with judgment, but only against Israel's enemies; they were blind in their self-righteous confidence that only others needed to get right with God.

God's promise to Noah was that never again would He flood the entire earth. 2Peter 3:10 notes that next time it's not with water, it's with fire. "Baptize the world with fire" may have a double meaning, maybe meaning Pentecost. Fire also idiomatically speaks of judgment, so fire might also refer to the Second Coming and the climax of the End times (a different type of baptism).

[[Matthew 3:9]] And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

He is reading their minds. He has warned them to flee the wrath to come - the tribulation - the time of Jacob's troubles. The 70 weeks of prophecy determined upon the nation of Israel (Daniel 9).

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

wrath - Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Luke 3:9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Luke 3:10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

Luke 3:11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

Luke 3:12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

Luke 3:13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

Luke 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse [any] falsely; and be content with your wages.

The fruits are listed that a Jew would have done had he repented. He would have been baptized, the first fruit of repentance. They didnt think they needed to repent.

The Jewish leaders thought that the Messiah would come with judgment, but only against Israel's enemies; they were blind in their self-righteous confidence that only others needed to get right with God.

They hold to covenant theology. A child born to a christian family is sprinkled to be in the covenant. The pharisees beleived that if a guy was born and circumsized in Israel he was saved.

Pharisees = “separatists,” the legalists, the ritualists, out of them come the traditions of the Talmudic Jew.

Sadducees = liberalists, rationalists = “reformed” (modernists, humanists) denied the inspiration of the Word. They didn’t believe in the resurrection. (That’s why they are “sad-u-see.”)

'stoned' - its almost as if there are some specific stones -

Joshua 4:20 And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal.

Joshua 4:21 And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What [mean] these stones?

- 12 stones assigned to Israel

you can apply it to the Christian - since the Jew rejects it, God does raise up some stones.

1Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

They are Gentiles, spritual children of Abraham. We are all dead in sins like a rock. We are all children of Abraham by faith but this refers to literal, physical stones.

John tears their self-rightousness down by reading their minds and telling them what they are thinking. Jesus did that. A preacher can have that skill.

[[Matthew 3:10]] And now also the **axe** is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

A similtide of trees likened unto men. True throughout the bible.

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Matthew 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

They are likening trees to men. Also trees are likened to nations. Israel - the wild branches are grafted into the olive tree. (Romans 11)

Israel is likened to a fig tree (type of righteousness in the Bible). - Matthew 24

Says any nation that doesnt bring fourth good fruit is cast into the lake of fire during the milleneum. (Mathtew 25) During the great tribulation all the nations are gathered together.

'axe' -

Jeremiah 51:20 Thou [art] my battle axe [and] weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;

God uses Satan as His axe to destroy the nations.

Jeremiah 51 deals with the destruction of Babylon and the second coming and the king of Babylon.

'war' - the battle of Armegeddon. The devil is God's servant.

God also uses kingdoms to destroy other kingdoms.

Jeremiah 50:23 How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!

God is using the devil as an axe. You must understand this dispensationally.

'good fruit' - take care of the Jew in the tribulation, these nations will be judged righteous.

Matthew 25:31- 34 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

- Prepared for the Jew.

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

This is a judgement of nations. How they treated the Jew during the great tribulation. The white throne judgement is a judgement of people 1,000 years later.

James 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

This is identical to James saying works will save you. The same as Jesus says in Matthew 25 - taking care of the Jewish brother because in the tribulation its going to be faith and works.

Matthew 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee]? or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink?

Matthew 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took [thee] in? or naked, and clothed [thee]?

Matthew 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Whoever treats the Jew right in the tribulation goes on, else the lake of fire.

Matthew 25:41-46 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

The trees that bring forth bad fruit will be cast into the lake of fire. Here John is at most ten years away from the kingdom.

[[Matthew 3:11]] I indeed baptize with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and [with] fire:

He's talking here in the national sense to Israel. Israel is the fig tree of Matthew 24 and the olive tree of Romans 11. This water baptism is to manifest to Israel the messiah.

John 1:31-35 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

You dont need water baptism to get the Holy Ghost. 'you' - the Jew as a nation.

Christ doesnt bapize anybody with the Holy Ghost during His ministry, this is to take place after the death, burial and resurrection. (John 6-7)

Here the Jews have already been promised (Ezekiel 36-37) that at the second advent they would receive the Holy Spirit. John is saying now that the God-man will do it. Those Jews who rejct the gospel of the kingdom during the tribulation will be baptized with fire.

To baptize *with fire* means to bring the fires of judgment, which will purify the pure, but destroy the wicked like chaff - the worthless residue of a wheat stalk after the kernel of grain has been removed; these proud and unrepentant leaders are just as useless to God.

Jesus will seperate the left fom the right with one group getting baptism by fire and the other group getting baptism by the Holy Spirit.

[[Matthew 3:12]] Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

'garner' - barn

2Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

- the 2nd coming

2Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2Thessalonians 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Some will be wiped out then others judged.

'fan' - when Christ returns the wheat will be 'thrown up in the air'.

Ruth 3:2 And now [is] not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.

The chaff is really light. The wind separates out the light chaff. In the bible the wind is likened to the Holy Spirit. God will use the Holy Spirit to separate the wheat from the chaff. There is a rapture tribulation in Revelation 14. A mighty angel will reap the earth because it is right. There are three parts to the reurrection -

The baptism of fire. Acts 2 is misinterpreted by some. Baptism by fire is NOT mentioned by Peter in Acts 11 -

Acts 11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

'them' - Cornelius and his gentile bunch

'us' - the apostles at the beginning (in Acts 2)

Acts 11:16 - 20

There isnt any baptism by fire anywhere in the book of Acts or Peter would have mentioned it. The only baptism by fire is the lake of fire. If you dont treat the Jew right you are in it at the second coming. If you died previous to that there is the Great White Throne Judgement and if your name isnt written in the lamb's book of life then the lake of fire.

All those people that beleive John's ministry later received Christ as their messiah. Becasue of that Christ begins to baptise them with the Holy Ghost (Acts 2) and ig=f Israelo would have gotten right He would have baptised the whole nation.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Talking to Israel.

Since the Jews reject (Galatians) God provokes them to jealousy and gives the gentiles the promise of the Holy Ghost. The gentile gets in on the promise for the next 2000 years

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

First fruits, harvest and gleaning. The wheat is separated from the chaff by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The wheat is gathered into the barn (resurrection to heaven).

endure to the end -

The Jew in the tribulation cannot be regenerated until the second coming.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Peter uses 'repent here', similar to John. The message is to the Jew. They rejected and crucified the messiah. The Jew doesn't get regeneration of sins, full salvation until the second coming. He must hold out until the end. An OT Jew keeps the laws and the sacrifices and if he is faithful he is sent to Abraham's bosom. The signs and wonders and miracles

helped his faith. Signs are for the Jew because they don't have that assurance right now. They saw much so they could believe in God. We have the Holy Spirit abiding in us as the comforter.

If this system would have come through and the Jew accepted there would be no church age in Matthew 3. We know the Jews didn't accept so God slips in the age of grace (2000 years). At the time John and Jesus were preaching it was what was GOING TO happen had the Jew accepted.

[[Matthew 3:13]] Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

John's baptism will manifest to Messiah in two respects to Israel. Baptism is a picture of death, burial and resurrection. The baptism should teach Israel that the messiah should die and be buried and be resurrected. The same for the nation of Israel at the hands of the antichrist. It is to prepare the way of the Lord.

John 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

- He didn't know Him by sight. John's baptism is the baptism of repentance to manifest the messiah to Israel. John was an OT prophet sent to make the messiah manifest to Israel. Jesus was a plain fellow (Isaiah 53). John could know Him by sight. John recognizes Him before the Spirit falls on Him. The key is the spirit remaining on Him; then John would recognize that that's the messiah.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name [was] John.

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all [men] through him might believe.

John 1:8 He was not that Light, but [was sent] to bear witness of that Light.

John 1:9 [That] was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:

Jesus comes to John for baptism

No one sought Jesus to be baptized; He came to John of His own accord.

[[Matthew 3:14]] But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

'thee' - John realized his water baptism wasnt the thing you really need. It pictured to the jew purification. You know some people are Christians before you talk to them.

Phillipians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in

my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

If a person has the fulness of Christ in them it is impossible to hid it.

John knew this was the messiah and didn't need to be baptised. He knew this was God incarnate. John's baptism is supposed to picture the life of Christ in the sense of water being the death, burial and ressurection. The death of Israel will take place in Daniel's 70th week. In Matthew there is no revelation of the church age and John has come to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy. He is 3 years from the crusification and 10 years away from the second coming. Israel will die by the antichrist.

Isaiah 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? [or] shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

A nation will be born in a day at the second coming. All 12 tribes will be resurrected.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

They were looking for that pouring of the Holy Spirit out upon a nation.

Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them].

The promise to Israel. They rejected it. God provoked the Jew to jealousy and put the Spirit into the Gentile. It could have been the promise to Israel had they accepted the messiah. You must know Ezekiel 36 and Romans 11. This way you can rightly divide James and Matthew.

Jesus has nothing to repent of, and it would be more appropriate for Jesus to baptize John!

[[Matthew 3:15]] And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer [it to be so] now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Jesus allows Himself to be baptized by John

Why did Jesus need to be baptized? The words *it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness* implies that it was a necessity in the plan of God, but why?

The purpose was for Jesus to completely identify Himself with sinful man; even as He did in His birth, His upbringing, and His death - here is Jesus again standing in the place of sinful man.

'suffer' – allow

Exodus 29:4 And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.

Exodus 29:5 And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod,

and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod:

Exodus 29:6 And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.

Exodus 29:7 Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour [it] upon his head, and anoint him.

Jesus Christ is 30 and can enter the priesthood. In order to do that He must be cleansed with water. He will use John's baptism in order to accomplish that. He is also to manifest Himself to Israel. We get baptize to manifest something that is already true. Christ is already clean but to manifest outwardly what is already true inwardly it manifests what is already true. That fulfills all righteousness.

Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebrews 5:10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 5:11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Hebrews 5:13 For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

He was God manifest in the flesh subjecting Himself to another man. That man ought to subject himself to Him. He obeyed and did what God said. He had to submit Himself to the temptations of a man to be the perfect messiah. He had to humble Himself. He didnt need to be baptized and to repent. God may put things on you.

2Corinthians 1:3 Blessed [be] God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

2Corinthians 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

If God wants you to be a good minister He will put you through trials.

1Corinthians 11:30 For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

1Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

The life of Christ was one of comforting those who reject you. He suffered those things that He might understand what you are going through. God will put you through things that you might better understand. Christ submitted Himself to all kinds of problems He didnt have to submit Himself to. He suffered NOW. the word now is in John 18. The king isnt here NOW.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Not now but later. New bibles omit the word 'now' and say that this will be a heavenly not earthly kingdom.

Matthew 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer [it to be so] now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

It implies that later on things will change. The humility and suffering comes now (the cross) and the crown comes later. The next time He comes He wont be submitting to John's baptism but will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Everyone will be submitting to Him.

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Proves baptism IS emmersion, not just sprinkling. Baptism is defined in Romans 6. The King James translators transliterated 'emerge' to 'baptize' as some of them were Calinists and didnt like emersion because of their doctrinal prejudices. But they DIDNT hide it -

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Sprinkling is not burying. You dont bury someone by sprinkling dirt on them. Also -

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Colossians 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Baptism is defined as a burial. Thats why He comes out of the water in Matthew 4.

Matthew 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

This baptism manifests the messiah to Israel.

John 1:31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

God reveals His secrtes to His servents the prophets. John is His servant. God will reveal things to a man who's full of the Holy Ghost So John gets the revelation before the Holy Spirit comes down is because he is full of the Holy Ghost. God will reveal things to a man who is full of the Holy Ghost without him having to see anything. The rest of this bunch needs physical manifeststation before they believe anything. They have never gone beyond repentence. John saw something in Christ nobody else saw. The rest of them will see it when the Holy Spirit comes down. Spiritual discernment. Exercising your spiritual discernment.

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Hebrews 5:13 For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

God can only give His secrets to His prophets. Not to a carnal man.

Someone who has experienced the Holy Spirit in his life, a man who has experienced trouble and temptation. Using the word of rightiuous on yourself and on others. Some of the best ways you will learn about the promises of the bible is when God fufills them in your life.

When Christ walked down to the river, John discerned who He is. John was in the will of God and was only out to please the Father. That kind of man God will show things to and give him secrets that He wont show anybody else.

/* end of tape 15 */

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

[The Divine witness to Jesus' Sonship](#)

[It was important for the Father to publicly demonstrate that Jesus' baptism was not just like anyone else's, in the sense of being a display of repentance - instead, the righteous identification with sinners, motivated by love, was *well pleasing* to the Father.](#)

Significantly, this is an occasion when the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all manifested at the same time.

This marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry!

Jesus' Baptism

This is His formal opening for His ministry. Appropriate that this event is commemorated by the trinity, Father through the voice, Holy Spirit through the dove-like descending and the Son being baptized.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

John 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault [at all].

John 18:39 But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

John 18:40 Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

John saw something the others didnt see.

[[Matthew 3:16]] And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

It was important for the Father to publicly demonstrate that Jesus' baptism was not just like anyone else's, in the sense of being a display of repentance - instead, the righteous identification with sinners, motivated by love, was *well pleasing* to the Father.

Significantly, this is an occasion when the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all manifested at the same time.

Why did Jesus insist upon being baptized? Baptism usually associated with the confession of sins. Did Jesus have any sins to confess? He was sinless (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 John 3:5; John 14:30). See Isaiah 53:12: numbered with the transgressors and He made intercession for the transgressors. At John's baptism, Jesus is declaring publicly His identity with the sinner.

'like a dove' - not a dove literally

Genesis 8:8 Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground;

An anointing for service.

The last time a voice from heaven was heard was at Mt Sinai when the Law was given. How interesting it is that the same voice which gave the law, is now announcing the remedy for breaking the law, namely, His Son.

The dominion of the entire earth is given to Noah. The dominion of the earth was given to Jesus, but since the Jew rejected God slipped in another 2000 years.

'lighting upon' -

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

At the Holy Spirit baptism of the apostles. Similarly, the Holy Spirit descends on Him as He is about to preach the kingdom of Heaven to the Jews. Jesus already has the Holy Spirit - He doesn't need the Holy Spirit descending on Him. But the Jews need a sign - the heavens being opened. Like Elijah, the heavens are opened to Him. The Holy Ghost is going to be poured out on Israel. The Jews should have realized this from the scriptures. There is a veil over their heart. They can see it yet they don't see it. Jesus showed His secrets to those who were receptive. These problems are happening to everybody.

1 Peter 5:9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

- Jesus was an apostle.

Three basic temptations - lust of the flesh, lust of the eye and pride of life.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

These temptations are in everything you run across. Satan tempted Eve with the pride of life. She looked at the tree - lust of the eye and pride of life. This same afflictions are put on all brethren. They were put on Christ so He could understand the problems we all go through. You have to see these things to survive in the ministry. The Lord is a refiner. The Lord will wash and refine Israel. A man can minister when he realizes his own shortcomings. A man cant minister when he doesnt know these things. He has no mercy then and most of your ministry is trying to understand people.

Zechariah 13:8 And it shall come to pass, [that] in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off [and] die; but the third shall be left therein.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It [is] my people: and they shall say, The LORD [is] my God.

'name' - the natichrist will make it impossible for the Jew to call on anything or anyone except God.

- "foxhole religion"

In the process of refining you put the heat on to bring something to the surface thats not visible to the human eye. God exposes your madness by outting the heat on. Flaws in character will come to the surface. You are still ordinary. We all all sinners. Dross btrought to the surface should be skimmed off. At first there is much dross requiring less heat, but later God must turn up the fire to get something on the surface. God is faithful (see Job). Job had already defeated the flesh and the world. God had to turn the devil on Job as the final step. The devil doesnt take you o until you have victory over the flesh and the world. There was no longer dross coming up from Job. It took a long time for Job's flaws to surface. Job was self-rightous. (Job 20). At the end Job repented and cleaned off the dross. Job was probably the cleanest man who ever lived. God will expose flaws in you by turning up the heat. Paul said 256 years after his ministry -

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

God is perfecting you.

James 1:3 Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Job had strong patience. Eventually it wore out.

James 1:4 But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Patience cant come any other way but by tribulation.

[[Matthew 3:17]] And lo a **voice** from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The last time a voice from heaven was heard was at Mt Sinai when the Law was given. How interesting it is that the same voice which gave the law, is now announcing the remedy for breaking the law, namely, His Son. Ps 2: There are three people talking. *Elohim* - plural noun - Name of God. (Yet always used with a singular verb) Hidden in the grammar is a hint of the trinity.

Things similar to the second coming. The heavens are opened. The Spirit of God descending. Christ comes back with a sword.

'voice' the Father

John 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, [saying], I have both glorified [it], and will glorify [it] again.

Three times in the bible - 'come up hither' - 3 parts to the first resurrection, so three raptures.

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

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Proverbs 25:7 For better [it is] that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.

- the tribulation saints

Revelation 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

- to two Jewish witnesses in the tribulation - the tribulationn saints

Most times the people hear the voice as thunder. Accompanied by lightening which is closely related to the rapture.

Job 37:1 At this also my heart trembleth, and is moved out of his place.

Job 37:2 Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound [that] goeth out of his mouth.

Job 37:3 He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.

Job 37:4 After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.

'stay' - prevent - The resurrection will take place.

'them' - the dead

1Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Job 37:5 God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

Job 37:6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou [on] the earth;
likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength.

Here in Matthew God speak speaks from heaven.

Job 37:5 God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great
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Job 37:6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou [on] the earth;
likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength.