

§17: JOHN'S MESSIANIC PREACHING

Matt. 3:11–12; Mark 1:7–8; Luke 3:15–18; John 1:24–28

Further Deliberation About John

Luke 3:15

John 1:24–25

<p>15 And while the people were in a state of expectation and all were considering in their hearts about John, whether he himself might not just be the Christ,</p>	<p>24 And they {see 1:19-gm} had been sent from the Pharisees.</p> <p>25 And they asked him, and said to him: Why then are you baptizing if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?</p>
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John Contrasts Himself With Christ

Matt. 3:11

Mark 1:7–8

Luke 3:16

John 1:26–27

<p>11a As for me, I baptize you with [in] water unto repentance,</p> <p>11b but He who is coming after Me is mightier than I,</p> <p>11c whose sandals I am not fit to remove.</p> <p>11d He Himself will baptize you with [in] the Holy Spirit and fire.</p>	<p>7a And he was preaching, saying:</p> <p>8a* I baptized you with water. . .</p> <p>7b He who is mightier than I is coming after Me,</p> <p>7c the thong of whose sandals I am not fit to loosen by bending down.</p> <p>8b*. . .but He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>16a John answered, saying to all:</p> <p>16b As for me, I baptize you with water,</p> <p>16c but He who is mightier than I is coming,</p> <p>16d the thong of whose sandals I am not fit to loosen.</p> <p>16e He Himself will baptize you with [in] the Holy Spirit and fire.</p>	<p>26a John answered them saying:</p> <p>26b I baptize with [in] water;</p> <p>26c in the midst of you stands One whom you do not know,</p> <p>27a He who is coming after Me,</p> <p>27b the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to loosen.</p>
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Cleaning the Threshing Floor

Matt. 3:12

Luke 3:17

<p>12 His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clean out His threshing floor, and He will gather His wheat into the barn; but the chaff He will burn up with inextinguishable fire.</p>	<p>17 His winnowing fork is in His hand to clean out His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn up with inextinguishable fire.</p>
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Further Preaching

Luke 3:18

<p>18 So then, exhorting with many other things also, he was evangelizing the people.</p>
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Geographical Note

John 1:28

<p>28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.</p>
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Notes

1. **Baptize...unto repentance (Mt. 3:11).** Not only is repentance the basis upon which one was baptized, it is also something that continues on through life. The more we learn God's will, even after baptism, the more we must learn to change our practice and thinking to be in harmony with His will.
2. **Winnowing fork (Mt. 3:12; Lk. 3:17).** Winnowing is the process by which threshed grain is separated from the chaff and other non-edible parts of the stalk. Since the chaff is lighter than the grain, the naturally prevailing winds of Palestine could be used to blow away the chaff from the grain. Farmers used special forks to toss unseparated grain into the air. The chaff would be blown away; the grain would fall back down and be collected.
3. **Evangelizing (Lk. 3:18).** Or, preaching the gospel.
4. John speaks of "inextinguishable fire" in Matt. 3:12 (=Lk. 3:17). Study the following passages to see how the New Testament understands the concept.
 - a. The word "inextinguishable" means lit. "not quenched" (from the Greek word "asbestos") and it is used 3 times in the N.T.:
Mt. 3:12 = Lk. 3:17
Mk. 9:43
 - b. "Fire" is used with the verb "quench" in: Mk. 9:44,46,48.
["Quench" is found in other contexts in: Mt. 12:20; 25:8; Eph. 6:16; 1 Thess. 5:19; Heb. 11:34.]
 - c. "Eternal fire" is found in: Matt. 18:8 (parallel to "Gehenna of fire" in 18:9); 25:41; Jude 7.
See also Lk. 16:24; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 12:29; 2 Pet. 3:7; Rev. 19:20; 20:9,10,14,15; 21:8 and others.
 - d. In view of these passages, discuss the meaning of Mt. 3:12.
[A discussion of "Gehenna" will come later in connection with Mt. 5:22.]
5. Discuss the meaning of baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire."
 - a. One and the same baptism? (Referring to Acts 2, the Holy Spirit coming with tongues of fire?)
 - b. Two separate baptisms, some receiving one, some receiving the other?
 - c. Does Matt. 3:12 explain the "fire" of 3:11, thus establishing the context of *this* passage?