

## §18: THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

**Matt. 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34**

### Jesus Comes to be Baptized by John

Matt. 3:13

Mark 1:9a

John 1:29a

<p><b>13</b> Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan to John to be baptized by him.</p>	<p><b>9a</b> And it came about in those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee,</p>	<p><b>29a</b> The next day he saw Jesus coming to him,</p>
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### John's Response

John 1:29b–31

<p><b>29b</b> and said: Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  <b>30</b> This is He on behalf of whom I said: After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He was before me.  <b>31</b> And I did not recognize Him, but in order that He might be manifested to Israel, for this reason I came baptizing in water.</p>
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### John Tries to Prevent Jesus from Being Baptized

Matt. 3:14–15a

<p><b>14</b> But John tried to prevent Him, saying: I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?  <b>15</b> But Jesus answered and said to him: Permit it now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.</p>
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### Jesus is Baptized

Matt. 3:15b

Mark 1:9b

Luke 3:21

<p><b>15b</b> Then he permitted Him.</p>	<p><b>9</b> and was baptized in the Jordan by John.</p>	<p><b>21a</b> Now it came about when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized.</p>
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### Jesus Comes out of the Water

Matt. 3:16a

Mark 1:10a

<p><b>16a</b> After being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water,</p>	<p><b>10a</b> And coming up immediately out of the water,</p>
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### Jesus Prays

Luke 3:21b

<p><b>21b</b> and while He was praying,</p>
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### The Spirit Comes upon Jesus

Matt. 3:16b

Mark 1:10b

Luke 3:21c–22a

John 1:32

<p><b>16b</b> and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming upon Him.</p>	<p><b>10b</b> He saw the heavens dividing and the Spirit descending as a dove unto Him.</p>	<p><b>21c</b> heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form as a dove upon Him,</p>	<p><b>32</b> And John bore witness saying: I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven; and He remained upon Him.</p>
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### John's Advance Notice of the Spirit on Jesus

John 1:33

**33** And I did not recognize Him; but He who sent me to baptize in water, He said to me: He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.

### The Voice from Heaven

Matt. 3:17

Mark 1:11

Luke 3:22b

**17** And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying: This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**11** And a voice came out of the heavens: You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased.

**22b** and a voice came out of heaven: You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased.

### Further Testimony

John 1:34

**34** And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.

### Notes

1. John 1:30 is also stated in John 1:15.
2. According to Matthew and Mark, only Jesus is said to have seen the heavens open and the Spirit descending. But this does not mean that others didn't see—the emphasis is simply upon Jesus. Luke is neutral—it happened. John makes it clear that the Baptist also saw the Spirit descending.

### Questions

1. What significance would the expression “Lamb of God” (John 1:29) have had for the Jews of Jesus' day?
2. Explain how the following two sets of statements made by John relate to each other:

#### Set A

- 1) “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)
- 2) “Behold, this is the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36)
- 3) “This is He on behalf of whom I said: After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.” (John 1:30,15)
- 4) “. . . in order that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” (John 1:31)
- 5) “And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” (John 1:34)

#### Set B

- 1) “And I did not recognize Him . . .” (John 1:31,33)
- 2) “Are You the Coming One, or shall we look for someone else?” (Matt. 11:3)