

§27: JESUS' MINISTRY IN JUDEA

John 3:22

22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the Judean country(side); and there He was spending time, and He was baptizing.

§28: JOHN'S TESTIMONY TO CHRIST

John 3:23–36

John Still Baptizing

3:23–24

23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because many waters were there; and they were coming and were being baptized.

24 For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

Question of John's Disciples

3:25–26

25 Accordingly, there arose a controversy [or, discussion, debate] from the disciples of John with a Jew concerning purification.

26 And they came to John and said to him:

Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have borne witness, behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him.

John Contrasts Himself to Jesus

3:27–31

27 John answered and said: A man cannot receive even one thing unless it is given to him from heaven.

28 You yourselves bear me witness that I said: I am not the Christ, but I am one sent before Him.

29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom;

but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy [i.e. rejoices greatly] because of the voice of the bridegroom.

Thus, this my joy has been made full.

30 He must increase [or, grow], but I must decrease [or, diminish].

31 The one coming from above is over all;

the one being of the earth is of the earth, and of the earth he speaks;

the one coming from heaven is over all.

Jesus Is Special

3:32–36

32 What He has seen and heard, of this He bears witness, and no one receives His witness.

33 The one having received His witness has sealed [or, certified, attested] that God is true.

34 For He whom God sent speaks the words of God,

for not from a measure [i.e. without measure] does He give the Spirit.

35 The Father loves the Son, and all things He has given in His hand.

36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life;

but He who disobeys the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Notes

1. **Many waters (3:23).** This is the common, general word for “water” used here in the plural. Depending on the context it can refer to a stream, river, pool, lake, spring, etc.
2. **Purification (3:25).** The only information we have about the specific nature of this controversy is given in vs. 26.