

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. . .

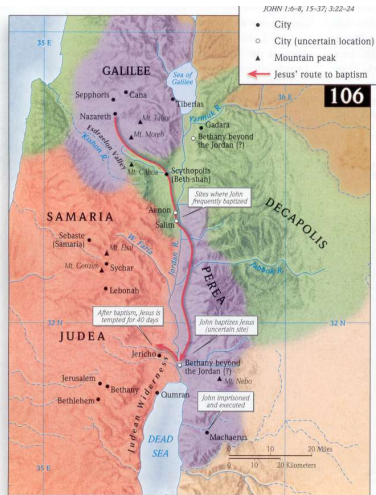
- - Timeline - -

1. The Lord concludes His Sermon on the Mount. **Matt.8:1; Luke 7:1**
2. The Lord travels to Capernaum and heals the Centurion's slave by exercising His sovereign omnipotence. **Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10**
3. Soon afterwards He travels southwest to Nain and crashes a funeral by raising a widow's only son from the dead. **Luke 7:11-17**



Luke 7:17-19 This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.

POD – The miracles [works] of Jesus Christ served to validate His doctrine and identity as the Son of God, Israel's Messiah.



18 The disciples of John reported to him about all these things. **19** Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, "[Are You the Expected One](#). . .

ὁ ἐρχόμενος – HO ERCHOMENOS – Literally, “*The One who is coming Himself*” or “*The coming One*”

Are you the One we have been waiting for?

Are you the One that the prophets foretold of?

... or do we look for someone else?"

John *began* to have doubts – **NOT IN THE PROMISE** – but whether Jesus *was* that promised Messiah.

John 1:29-34 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **30** 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.' **31** "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." **32** John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. **33** "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water 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.' **34** "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

John began to doubt!

Matthew 3:1-2 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching [*with authority and conviction as a herald*] in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand [*on the brink of being instituted*]."

Matthew 3:5-7 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; ⁶ and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Matthew 3:10-12 "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees [*judgment*]; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

- John said that when Messiah arrives He would baptize people with the **Holy Spirit** and with **fire**.

Two distinct baptisms

BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

- Reserved for the subjects of the King who will enter His kingdom
- They will receive the Holy Spirit [*blessing associated with Messiah's arrival*].

BAPTISM OF FIRE

- Reserved for those who reject the Messiah
- They will be baptized with unquenchable fire [*judgment*].

- There were two things associated with Messiah's arrival

BLESSING

JUDGMENT

John began to doubt because he saw no judgment!

Luke 4:15-21 And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all. ¹⁶ And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the book [*the scroll*] of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.**" ²⁰ And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "**Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.**"

Quoted from -

Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; ² To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD **and the day of vengeance of our God**; To comfort all who mourn,

John began to doubt because he saw no vengeance!

Luke 7:19-23 Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, "[Are You the Expected One or do we look for someone else?](#)"

Notice how John handled this question in his soul. He went to the Lord – for guidance; for truth!

²⁰ When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, 'Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?'" ²¹ At that very time, He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind.

POD (*noted above*) - The miracles [*works*] of Jesus Christ served to validate his doctrine and identity as the Son of God, Israel's Messiah.

²² And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM [*a paraphrase of Isaiah 35:5-6 & 61:1*]. ²³ "Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

σκανδαλίζω – SKANDALIZO - *Blessed is he who does not allow his faith in Me to be unraveled.*

How do you handle things that may unravel your thinking or your life?

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.