

## **The Life of Christ Pt. III**

### The Ministry of John the Baptist and the Early Years of Jesus Christ

\*\*\*\*\***REVIEW**\*\*\*\*\*

#### I. The Early Years of John the Baptist

- A. John's Birth Foretold to Zacharias (Luke 1:5-25)
- B. Jesus' Birth Foretold to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
- C. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)
- D. Mary's Song of Joy (Luke 1:46-56)
- E. John's Birth (Luke 1:57-66)
- F. Zacharias' Prophetic Song (Luke (1:67-79)
- G. John's Growth and Early Life (Luke 1:80)

#### III. The Early Years of Jesus Christ

##### A. The Birth of Jesus Christ

1. The Circumstances of Jesus' Birth Explained to Joseph (Matt. 1:18-25)
2. The Birth (Luke 2:1-7)
3. The Witness of the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)
4. The Circumcision of Jesus & His presentation in the Temple (Lk. 2:21-38)
5. Jesus' Family returns to Nazareth (2:39)

##### B. The Early Life of Jesus

1. The Visit of the Magi (Matt. 2:1-12)
  - After Jesus was born in Bethlehem "wise men" from the east came to Jerusalem to look for the newly born "King of the Jews."
  - When the Wise men inquire about the newly born "king of the Jews" the suspicions (rather paranoia) of Herod the Great are aroused.
  - Herod inquires of the chief priests and scribes about where the

- Christ (lit. the Messiah, the “*anointed one*”) was to be born.
  - They answer in Bethlehem citing the prophet Micah:
  - Herod secretly consults the Wise Men asking them when the star appeared that sent them to Israel. He then sends them to Bethlehem and asks that they bring back word of the location of the new born king:
  - The Wise Men then left to search for the baby Jesus following the star as it went before them.
  - The star eventually stood over where the baby Jesus was in Bethlehem:
  - The Wise Men were warned in a dream not to return to herod so they departed for their own country.
2. The Flight into Egypt (Matt. 2:13-15)
- After the Wise Men departed an angel appeared to Joseph and warned him to flee to Egypt with his family because Herod would seek to destroy Him:
3. Herod Kills the Children (Matt. 2:16-18)
- When Herod discovers that he has been deceived by the Wise Men and that they have no intention of returning and disclosing the location of the newly born Jesus he is enraged (Gr. *thumosa*, to be enraged, furious, intensely angry).
  - Herod issues an order directing that all the male children 2 years old and younger be put to death “according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi.”
  - Matthew then sees this event as a “fulfillment” of Jeremiah 31:15:
4. The Return to Nazareth (Matt. 2:19-23)
- When Herod died “an angel of the Lord” appeared to Joseph advising him that it was safe for them to return to Israel.
  - Joseph then returned to the land of Israel with Mary and the baby Jesus
5. The Early Growth of Jesus (Luke 2:40)
- Luke records that upon their return to Nazareth the baby Jesus continued to grow:
6. Jesus’ First Passover in Jerusalem (Luke 2:41-50)
- When Jesus was 12 years old He and His family attended the Passover Feast in Jerusalem as was their habit (“every year”

Luke 2:41).

- When the Passover Feast days were complete they began the return trip to Nazareth along with the rest of their extended family and friends.
- After a day's journey Joseph and Mary discovered that Jesus was not with them. (They thought that Jesus was with their relatives of close friends.)
- Joseph and Mary then went back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus

7. Jesus' Adolescence and Early Manhood (Luke 2:51-52)

- After this event following the Passover Feast Jesus continued in subjection to His parents Joseph and Mary

IV. The Public Ministry of John the Baptist

A. The Beginning of John the Baptist's Ministry (Matt. 3:1; Mark 1:1-6; Luke 3:1-6)

1. Luke dates the beginning of John's ministry to the 15<sup>th</sup> year of Tiberius Caesar at the time of Pontius Pilate's governorship in Judea

- Matthew (3:1) indicates that John came preaching in the Wilderness of Judea (Mark says simply "in the wilderness", Mark 1:3)
- Luke says that John came preaching "into all the district around the Jordan." (Luke 3:3)

B. The Message and Ministry of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:2-10; Luke 3:7-14)

1. All 3 Synoptics say that John came ***preaching***:

- Matthew says in 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- Mark says in 1:4 "John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."
- Luke says in 3:3 "And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;"

2. All 3 synoptics link the coming of John the Baptist to the prophecy of Isaiah:

- Matthew says, 3:3 "For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the

prophet, saying, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!’”

- Mark says, “1:2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way; 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.’”
- Luke says, “3:4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight. 5 Every ravine shall be filled up, And every mountain and hill shall be brought low; And the crooked shall become straight, And the rough roads smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

3. Both Matthew and Mark indicate that John was baptizing people in connection to their confession of their sins:

- Matthew says, 3:5 “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.”
- Mark says, 1:4 “John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.”

C. John’s Description of Jesus Christ (Matt. 3:11-12; Mark 1:7-8; Luke 3:15-18)

1. Matthew

- Matt. 3:11 “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 “And 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.”

2. Mark

- Mark 1:7 And he was preaching, and saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. 8 “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

3. Luke

- Luke 3:15 Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he might be the Christ, 16 John answered and said to them all, “As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 “And His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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V. The End of John’s Ministry and the Beginning of Christ’s Ministry (Primarily in Judea)

A. The Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist

1. All 3 synoptics include the baptism of Jesus

- Matt. 3:13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” 15 But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him. 16 And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”
- Mark 1:9 And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; 11 and a voice came out of the heavens: “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.”
- Luke 3:21 Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.”

B. The Temptation of Christ

1. All 3 synoptics include the temptation

- Matt. 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be

tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You’; and ‘On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’” 7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, “All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

- Mark 1:12 And immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness. 13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.
- Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days; and when they had ended, He became hungry. 3 And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” 4 And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” 5 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 “Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” 9 And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; 10 for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You to guard You,’ 11 and, ‘On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’” 12 And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 13 And when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

## C. The Ministry of John the Baptist

### 1. John Identifies himself to the Jewish leaders (John 1:19-28)

John 1:19 And this is the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20 And he confessed, and did not deny, and he confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 22 They said then to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” 23 He said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.” 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 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?” 26 John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 “It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” 28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## 2. John identifies Jesus as the Son of God (John 1:29-34)

John 1:29 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 “And I did not recognize Him, but in order that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” 32 And John bore witness saying, “I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 “And 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 “And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

### D. Early Events in Jesus’ Ministry

#### 1. Jesus chooses His first Followers (John 1:35-51)

- John the Baptist is with 2 of his disciples and sees Jesus and says, “Behold the Lamb!”
- This piques the interest of the 2 disciples and they begin to follow Jesus. One of the 2 disciples is Andrew, brother of Simon Peter.
- Andrew then goes to get his brother:

Jn. 1:41 He found first his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

- The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and called him to follow Jesus (he was from the same town as Andrew and Peter—Bethsaida).
- Philip found Nathaniel and said to him:

Jn. 1:45 “. . . We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 And Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

- Jesus then says to Nathaniel:

Jn. 1:47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” 48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” 49 Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.” 50 Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” 51 And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

## 2. Jesus' First miracle (John 2:1-11)

John 2:1 And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; 2 and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding. 3 And when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." 6 Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the headwaiter." And they took it to him. 9 And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, 10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

## 3. Jesus visits Capernaum with His Disciples (John 2:12)

John 2:12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother, and His brothers, and His disciples; and there they stayed a few days.

## 4. The First Cleansing of the Temple (John 2:13-22)

John 2:13 And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated. 15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables; 16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Thy house will consume me." 18 The Jews therefore answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?" 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews therefore said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken.

## 5. An Early Response to Jesus' miracles (John 2:23-25)

John 2:23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, beholding His signs which He was doing. 24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, 25 and because He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man for He Himself knew what was in man.

## 6. Nicodemus' Interview with Jesus (John 3:1-21)

- Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler among the Jews. He came to Jesus secretly by night
- He acknowledges the signs that Jesus has performed and says that no one could do these signs unless God was with Him. Jesus responds:

Jn. 3:3 ". . . Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

- This prompts Nicodemus to respond back to Jesus:

Jn. 3:4 “. . . How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

- Jesus then says to Nicodemus:

Jn. 3:5 “. . . Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

- Nicodemus does not understand so Jesus responds:

Jn. 3:10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things? 11 “Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak that which we know, and bear witness of that which we have seen; and you do not receive our witness. 12 “If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 “And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man. 14 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.

- Jesus continues with a description of the reasons why He came from God:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. 18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 “And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. 20 “For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 “But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

## 7. John Superseded by Jesus (John 3:22-36)

- Jesus and His disciples leave and enter the Land of Judea. They spend time baptizing followers of Jesus.
- At one point John’s disciples come to John and are apparently concerned that Jesus and His disciples are baptizing

Jn. 3: 27 John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing, unless it has been given him from heaven. 28 “You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’ 29 “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. And so this joy of mine has been made full. 30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.

8. Jesus' Departure from Judea (Matt. 4:12; Mk. 1:14a; Lk. 3:19-20; Jn. 4:1-4)

- Luke says that at one point John the Baptist reproves Herod the tetrarch and was locked in prison as a result:

Luke 3:19 But when Herod the tetrarch was reproved by him on account of Herodias, his brother's wife, and on account of all the wicked things which Herod had done, 20 he added this also to them all, that he locked John up in prison

- All 3 Synoptics record that when Jesus heard about John being locked in Prison He went into Galilee
  - Matthew: 4:12 "He withdrew into Galilee;"
  - Mark: 1:14 "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,"
  - Luke: "4:14 And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

9. Jesus' Discussion with a Samaritan Woman (John 4:5-45)

VI. The Ministry of Christ in Galilee

VII. The Ministry of Christ around Galilee

VIII. The Later Judean Ministry of Christ

IX. The Ministry of Christ in and around Perea

X. The Formal Presentation of Christ to Israel and the Resulting Conflict

XI. Prophecies in Preparation for the Death of Christ

XII. The Death of Christ

XIII. The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ