

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Herald of the King. (His baptism)

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne by accurately interpreting the Mosaic law in the Sermon on the Mount.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

After emphasizing that Jesus meets the genealogical qualifications to be the Messiah in chapter 1; after recognizing that Jesus was born King of the Jews in fulfillment of prophecy as seen in chapter 2; we then find the prophesied forerunner to the Messiah bursting onto the scene in fulfillment of prophecy in Matthew 3.

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Matthew 3:3 (NKJV)

3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet **Isaiah**, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ”

Isaiah gave this prophecy as seen in Isa. 40:3 - 700 years before it was fulfilled. John the Baptist, unique to him, came ***crying in the wilderness***. No other prophet did this. Who goes out to a barren/isolated place and starts calling people to repentance! No one is even out there – at least not initially. But God was in it. It all lined up perfectly with prophecy.

A footnote to Isaiah 40:3. In my ministry I constantly emphasize thinking in CONTEXT. This prophecy of the coming forerunner in Isaiah 40 is found in ***a Messianic/kingdom context***. Isaiah 40 begins in this way:

Slide # 3

Isaiah 40:1 (NKJV)

1 “**Comfort**, yes, **comfort** My people!” Says your God.

What is the basis of this coming COMFORT for the people of God? It is the coming Messiah who was prophesied to have a forerunner go before Him and prepare the way by calling the people to repentance. Before the comfort of the kingdom can come the people must come to repentance.

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Isaiah 40:3 (NKJV)

3 The **voice of one crying in the wilderness**: “Prepare the way of the **LORD**; Make straight in the desert A highway for **our God**.”

Isaiah then assumes the people will respond to the forerunner in repentance and the Messiah will then bring in the kingdom.

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Isaiah 40:5 (NKJV)

5 The **glory of the LORD shall be revealed**, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Isaiah 40:10 (NKJV)

10 Behold, the **Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand**, And His arm shall **rule** for Him; Behold, His **reward** is with Him, And His work [kingdom work] before Him.

Isaiah then goes on to describe the incomparable GREATNESS of God and rounds out this Messianic/Kingdom chapter with these words.

Slide # 6**Isaiah 40:30–31 (NKJV)**

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

31 But those who **wait on the LORD** Shall **renew their strength**;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

People fail in making any lasting mark in the world. They fail in finding any lasting source of COMFORT! As Isaiah emphasizes people are like grass that quickly withers and fades away (cf. Isa. 40:6-8).

But in CONTEXT those who wait on the LORD will find renewed strength. In CONTEXT this is kingdom strength. When the Messiah comes, He will bring about restoration. He will renew the strength of His people in the kingdom. ***“They shall mount up with wings like eagles”***. We are really going to sore then! We ***“shall run and not be weary...walk and not faint.”*** What a day that is going to be when Messiah brings in the kingdom.

All this to say this is what John the Baptist was talking about when he said in Matt. 3:2 ***“Repent, for the kingdom is at hand.”*** He was presenting the offer of the kingdom prophesied in 40 on the condition of REPENTANCE. The King was now here, and the offer of the kingdom was being made on the condition of repentance.

Sadly, Israel did not repent, and the kingdom offer was put on hold! But there is one more aspect to the forerunner story. We find that Elijah in the OT was a type of John the Baptist. Turns out that there are TWO aspects to the forerunner story. John the Baptist fulfilled one aspect related to the first coming, but there is another aspect yet to be fulfilled in the person of Elijah in relation to Christ’s Second Coming.

John the Baptist clearly said he was NOT Elijah as seen in John 1:21. John the Baptist was not Elijah, but he was a type of Elijah who came in the spirit and power of Elijah.

Before the birth of John the Baptist an angel told his father Zacharias...

Slide # 7**Luke 1:17 (NKJV)**

17 **“He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah,** ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

It was in this sense of typology that Jesus said that John the Baptist was Elijah.

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Matthew 11:14 (NKJV)

14 “And if you are willing to receive it, he [John the Baptist] is Elijah who is to come.

Mark 9:13 (NKJV)

13 But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him.”

John the Baptist’s message was not received – not by the leaders – not by the majority in Israel. The people did not repent and so the kingdom did not come. And so, the mission of the forerunner, in that sense, was left unfulfilled. But it must yet be fulfilled. Following Isaiah 40:3 we read:

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Isaiah 40:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Yes, the voice crying in the wilderness was partially fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist, but the response of genuine repentance was missing. Everything was NOT made straight. The glory of the LORD was not revealed to all flesh in terms of the kingdom glory. That is yet future. And this aspect will yet be fulfilled in the person of another forerunner by the name of Elijah.

Elijah will one day be brought back to life – not in glorified form – but revived in his mortal body. He will then bring to complete fulfillment the forerunner prophecies.

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Malachi 4:5 (NKJV)

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

To this day the Jews are waiting for Elijah to come. At Passover they set an empty chair for him, and then during the meal someone will go and see if he is at the door. They are still expecting Elijah to come before the Messiah comes. And in this they are right. They just don't understand this "Elijah" coming is in reference to His SECOND Coming!

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Matthew 17:11 (NKJV)

11 Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, **Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.**

Revelation 11:3 (NKJV)

3 And I will give power to **my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

We believe that one of these two special witness in the Tribulation Period will be Elijah and, in my view, the other one is probably Moses.

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John the Baptist had come in the spirit of Elijah. If they had accepted Jesus as the Messiah, John would have been the fulfillment of the prophecy. However, since they did not accept Jesus as their Messiah at His first coming, the prophecy of Elijah as His forerunner would be fulfilled at His second coming." – **J. Vernon McGee**

When you put all the "Elijah" references together (cf. Mal. 3:1, 4:5-6, Mt. 11:11-14, 17:10-13, Mk. 9:11-13, Lk. 1:17, Jn. 1:19-23) it is clear that a double reference to Elijah is in view in the Scriptures.

John the Baptist was a TYPICAL fulfillment. He was the forerunner in the spirit and power of Elijah and had Israel accepted Jesus as their Messiah at that time all those "Elijah prophecies" would have been fulfilled in him.

However, God knows all things and knew they wouldn't. Hence, there is yet another literal fulfillment of Elijah as the forerunner to the Second Coming of Messiah.

As it turns out Christ has TWO comings and at each coming the “Elijah like” forerunner is in view. **Typically**, John the Baptist fulfilled this in regards to his first coming. But the actual Elijah will **literally** fulfill it completely in relation to His Second Coming.

We saw last time that John the Baptist in fulfillment of prophecy in Isa. 40:3 came preaching repentance in the wilderness of Judea. Matt. 3:11 has John saying, “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance” but then he also said another was coming after him who would baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

That brings us to Matt. 3:13 in our study and the baptism of Jesus by John. All four gospels record this event showing the importance of it (cf. Matt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-22; Jn. 1:31-34).

Matthew 3:13–17 (NKJV)

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

At the end of chapter 2 we saw Jesus as a child with His family went and lived in Nazareth of Galilee. Fast-forward about 30 years in chapter 3 we have Jesus coming from there to John the Baptist at the Jordan to be baptized by him. This event would mark the beginning of Christ’s ministry and in Luke 3:23 it says at that time He was “about thirty years of age”.

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The distance from Nazareth to the Jordan River in Judea where John was baptizing was about a 60 mile journey.

14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

In John 1:29 we read that as John saw Jesus coming toward him, he said, **“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”** In conjunction with what was happening God at this time made known to John that Jesus was indeed the Messiah he was preparing the way before.

Slide # 14

John 1:30 (NKJV)

30 This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’

John the Baptist went on to say in John 1 that prior to this occasion he did not know WHO the Messiah was but that the Spirit descending on Him at the time of His baptism became the confirming SIGN that He was indeed the exalted Messiah.

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John 1:33–34 (NKJV)

33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, **‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending**, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

34 And **I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**”

With this new insight coming into view John tried to prevent Christ from undergoing his baptism, saying, **“I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”**

In this statement John recognized both the superiority and the sinlessness of Christ in contrast to himself (cf. Jn. 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 Jn. 3:5). John saw himself as a sinner, but NOT Jesus. John recognized that his baptism signified repentance (v. 11) but that was totally inappropriate for Christ because He was not a sinner – He needed no repentance. And in this John was right.

John recognized that Jesus was the superior One coming after him whose sandals he was not worthy to carry. This was the One who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire – something only God can do (v. 11). So, what was this all about? Why was Christ requesting John to baptize Him?

In context John has just said the One coming after him would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Perhaps, this is what John meant when he said, “***I need to be baptized by You***”. However, since the issue is John’s baptism at this point, John may have simply been indicating that in terms of water baptism signifying repentance this more aptly applied to himself rather than to Jesus.

Whatever the case he had some serious reservations about baptizing Christ since as he has just said in verse 11 his baptism signified repentance and we saw in verse 6 that the people being baptized by John were “***confessing their sins***”. You can see why John thought this baptism was not appropriate for Jesus.

There has been no end of commentary on what Christ’s baptism means. And frankly MANY commentators spin a lot of yarn here saying things the text does not actually say. In order to properly understand there are four things to note: 1) The meaning of baptism; 2) The two-pronged IDENTIFICATION ministry of John the Baptist; 3) Christ’s explanation of what was happening, and 4) the Father’s confirming testimony on this occasion. When you put that altogether it becomes clear what the purpose was of Christ being baptized by John.

Many people have a very shallow understanding of BAPTISM. For many they see no deeper than an outward physical ritual which is to miss the MAJOR POINT. The word baptize in Greek has 2 meanings. Its primary meaning is “***to dip under***” or “***to immerse***”. The secondary meaning “***is to dip into dye***” with the idea of PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION. To dip a piece of cloth into dye resulted in it being permanently identified with the dye; hence the idea of IDENTIFICATION.

The essential MEANING of baptism is consistently IDENTIFICATION. There are various kinds of “baptism” in the bible, but the idea is consistently that of IDENTIFICATION.

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1 Corinthians 10:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

Nobody even got wet in this baptism. The idea is that they were all IDENTIFIED with Moses in this experience of going through the sea.

In 1 Cor. 12:13 when Paul says all believers are by one Spirit baptized into one body and made to drink into one Spirit he is emphasizing all true believers are IDENTIFIED in spiritual union together.

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Different Baptisms found in the N.T.

Dry: 1. Moses and the cloud. (1 Cor. 10:1-2)
 2. Christ's cup. (Matt. 20:22; Lk. 12:50)
 3. Spirit baptism. (1 Cor. 12:13)
 4. Fire (Matt. 3:11)

Wet 1. John the Baptist's baptism. (Matt. 3:6)
 2. **Jesus' own baptism.** (Matt. 3:15-16)
 3. Jesus' disciples' baptism while He was here on earth. (Jn. 3:22-4:2)
 4. Believers' water baptism. (Matt. 28:19; Acts)

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If the meaning of baptism could be boiled down to one word, that word would be identification. - ***Dr. Ray Pritchard***

Actually, baptism means identification, and I believe identification was the primary purpose for the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ.

– ***J. Vernon McGee***

So, to my first point: Understand that the essential idea of BAPTISM is consistently IDENTIFICATION. Second, what did Jesus say?

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

John did not think it was fitting, but Jesus pointed out that it was saying, "***it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.***" That was good enough for John the Baptist. *But what exactly did Jesus mean?* Righteousness refers to that which is right before God. To "***fulfill all righteousness***" means to do all that is right. As pointed out before, Jesus Himself did not need repentance, which is what John's Baptism signified so what righteousness needed to be fulfilled? Great question and one that has been struggled with for years. There are all kinds of views.

Keep in mind that the MAIN idea in baptism is IDENTIFICATION. John the Baptist is so called because of the prominence of baptism in his ministry. We could call him “**John the IDENTIFIER**” because that is the essential meaning of baptism. But what was his identifying ministry?

As I said before it really had a two-pronged emphasis. John was identifying repenters in baptism in preparation for the coming Messiah; but there was another MAJOR aspect of identification associated with his God-ordained ministry and that was the IDENTIFICATION of the Messiah. In order to fulfill ALL righteousness he also needed to IDENTIFY Christ as the Messiah. It was not enough just to prepare the way, John also need to introduce Him, make Him known, IDENTIFY Him as the One he had prepared the way for.

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John the Baptist’s Ministry:

(Two aspects of IDENTIFICATION)

Repenters IDENTIFIED with message of repentance.

Messiah IDENTIFIED with message of the coming superior One.

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John 1:6–8 (NKJV)

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 This man came for **a witness, to bear witness of the Light**, that all through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was **sent to bear witness of that Light**.

You see John didn’t only come to call people to repentance, but to point them to the LIGHT of Christ so they might believe. John came not only to PREPARE the people through repentance, but also to INTRODUCE them to Jesus. John’s ministry had a two-fold IDENTIFICATION emphasis: **Identifying repenters**, and **identifying the Messiah**. Thus, his baptism served a two-fold IDENTIFICATION purpose.

The baptism of Jesus was totally UNIQUE, unlike any other. The significance of it was different.

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John 1:33–34 (NKJV)

33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'
34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

John was told by God that in his baptizing ministry the experience with the coming GREAT One would be totally unique. He would see the Spirit descending on Him. John saw this and therefore said, "***I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.***" This was the fulfillment of the righteous purpose that God had for this baptism. It was to IDENTIFY Jesus as the divine/human Messiah through John's ministry.

This role of IDENTIFYING Israel's Messiah was such a great thing that Jesus said of John: "***A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.***" (Mt. 11:9) He then said, "***among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist***" (Mt. 11:11). In terms of prophetic role no one ever had a higher or more privileged position than John the Baptist.

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John 5:33–35 (NKJV)

33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.

34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

One day the religious leaders challenged Jesus asking Him by what authority He did the things He was doing. Jesus responded by saying He would ask them one question which if they told Him then He would answer their question as well. His question was this: "***The baptism of John – where was it from? From heaven or from men?***" (Mt. 21:25). These evil men reasoned, "***If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'***" (Mt. 21:25)

You see John's BAPTISM was from heaven and it ultimately communicated a message about the Messiah with divine authority that should have been believed. As John testified, when he baptized Christ, he saw the Spirit descending and remaining on Him and he testified "***this is the Son of God***" (Jn. 1:33-34). This is the ultimate meaning found in John baptizing Jesus. It was all about WHO Jesus was as further confirmed by the Father.

Note the language carefully when Jesus says to John, “***it is fitting FOR US to fulfill all righteousness.***” This is something they were to do TOGETHER.

In John 1:26-27, John the Baptist said, “*there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.*” Jesus in undergoing John’s baptism was IDENTIFYING with that aspect of John’s message.

Jesus as the coming Messiah insisted on IDENTIFYING with John’s message because it was RIGHT – it fulfilled ALL righteousness! It completed John’s message. “He is coming – prepare! He is here among you. THIS IS HE!” John message prepared the people by calling them to REPENTANCE. But John’s ministry also included INTRODUCING the Messiah. The message of John and the Person of Christ went together. Jesus was the fulfillment of John’s message! Thus, they are linked which was the message of John baptizing Christ. As Christ said, “***thus it is fitting FOR US*** [doing this together] ***to fulfill all righteousness.***”

Seeing it this way John could not disagree and the text says, “Then he allowed Him.”

And to confirm that Christ’s baptism was essentially all about WHO He was as the coming Messiah we have confirmation from heaven on this very point as seen in both verse 16 and 17.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Jesus coming “***up...from the water***” is consistent with the word “baptize” meaning “to immerse”.

This has MESSIAH written all over it! We have John’s testimony that God sent him to baptize and that in this context he would see this supernatural SPIRIT phenomenon related to this superior One coming after him (see John 1:33). But beyond that we have Messianic prophecy in the OT that the Messiah would be uniquely anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Slide # 23

Isaiah 61:1–2 (NKJV)

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to

heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,...

The baptism of Jesus was in effect His official inauguration into public ministry.

Shortly after Christ's baptism Luke 4:14 says Jesus returned "***in the power of the Spirit to Galilee***". Jesus went back to His hometown of Nazareth, went into the synagogue, and opened the scroll up to this very passage in Isaiah 61 and then precisely read verses 1 and 2a (see Lk. 4:18-19). When He had finished reading, He said, "***Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.***" (Lk. 4:21). Jesus was saying that this Messianic passage applied to Him and was being fulfilled in Him. That was astounding and left the audience marveling!

Slide # 24

Isaiah 11:1–2 (NKJV)

1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The **Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him**, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

The point is that the Messiah would be uniquely anointed with the Spirit and this happened to Jesus in perfect fulfillment of Isaiah's Messianic prophecy in conjunction with John the Baptist's ministry.

In the OT prophets, priests, and kings were anointed indicating they were uniquely chosen and appointed by God to this role. These anointings prefigured the ultimate ANOINTED ONE Who would perfectly fulfill all the offices of prophet, priest, and king in ONE person. Thus, He would be uniquely anointed with the Holy Spirit for this role.

The very meaning of ***Messiah*** (Hebrew) or ***Christ*** (Greek) is "***Anointed One***". Jesus the Christ means "***Jesus the Anointed One***". He was uniquely chosen and empowered by God. He was uniquely anointed with the Spirit in His earthly ministry in fulfillment of prophecy. As John 3:34 says Jesus was given "***the Spirit without measure.***" In other words, Jesus in His humbled state of the incarnation was fully endowed with the Spirit.

Slide # 25

Acts 10:37–38 (NKJV)

37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and **began from Galilee after the baptism** which John preached:

38 how **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power**, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Jesus is eternal God. He was always God and in coming to earth He did not cease in anyway to be fully God. He merely added humanity to His eternal deity. But in that state of humility, He set aside the independent use of His divine attributes. As the great representative of humanity, He functioned in the power of the Holy Spirit each step of the way. He is our great example, – the perfect example, of what it means to live a life completely yielded to the Spirit. His obedience and His empowerment were PERFECT!

The point is that as the Messiah He was uniquely anointed with the Spirit and evidently God the Father gave both John the Baptist and Jesus a visible manifestation of “the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove” and remaining upon Jesus (cf. Mt. 3:16; John 1:32-33).

The imagery of a “dove” is fitting for the Spirit because the dove is a symbol of innocence, gentleness, peace, and purity (cf. Mt. 10:16; Gen. 1:2; 8:6-12).

This anointing [of the Spirit at Christ’s baptism] was a divine mark of God’s appointment of Jesus to His Messianic work.

– ***Stanley Toussaint***

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

This announcement from heaven at the baptism of Christ is God the Father’s affirmation that indeed Jesus is the God-ordained Messiah. This was the KEY point and message of Christ’s baptism. It fulfilled all righteousness in that it was God’s appointed way to endow Jesus with the Spirit and thereby affirm His Messiahship in conjunction with John the Baptist’s ministry. It was the capstone fulfillment of John’s prophetic ministry.

Three times in the ministry of Christ we have the Father verbally speaking from heaven. 1) At Christ’s baptism, 2) at Christ’s transfiguration (Mt. 17:5), and 3) just prior to the Cross (Jn. 12:28).

The significant thing about the baptism of Jesus was the authentication from heaven. – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

Here in Mt. 3:17 the voice of the Father conflated two Messianic emphases from the Old Testament Scriptures as seen in Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1. Both of these are rich Messianic texts.

This shows that Jesus is the Messiah and that His Messiahship is to be understood in light of the Old Testament servant prophecies depicting the coming Messiah.

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Psalm 2:7 (NKJV)

7 “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘**You are My Son**, Today I have begotten You.

The emphasis in this Messianic Psalm is that the Son is given rule over the nations. In Christ’s baptism God the Father recognized Jesus for Who He was as His Son. The phrase “***Today I have begotten You***” is applied to His resurrection in Acts 13:33.

As God Jesus was always the SON. From all eternity He was over all creation including the angels. But in His incarnation Christ humbled Himself and was put in a position (functionally) of being a little lower than the angels according to Heb. 2:9. But then in the resurrection something happened. Christ, not only as God, but now also as the God-MAN was exalted to a position far above all principality and powers (cf. Eph. 1:20-22). In the resurrection Christ’s humanity now shared in the glory that His Godhood had eternally known (cf. Jn. 17:5). In that sense God says, “***Today I have begotten You.***” (cf. Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:5).

Jesus did not become God’s Son on the occasion of His baptism, but rather God the Father simply recognized Him for Who He already was.

He did not become the Son at His baptism, however, as some have assumed, for the Father had loved the Son “before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24). – ***Henry M. Morris***

Understand that saying Jesus is the “Son of God” emphasizes His nature as being that of God. It means He is the very order and nature of God. This is consistently how the N.T. uses this title. It is a title of DEITY.

Slide 27**Matthew 14:33 (NKJV)**

33 Then those who were in the boat came and **worshiped Him** [to be attributed ONLY to God], saying, “Truly You are the **Son of God.**”

John 5:18 (NKJV)

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also **said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

The Jews consistently understood the title “Son of God” to mean that Jesus was Himself very God – which is true. It is a title of DEITY emphasizing that Jesus has a very special and unique relationship with the Father (cf. Jn. 1:18; Eph. 1:6). That Jesus is God’s Son was both John’s testimony in conjunction with Christ’s baptism as well as that of God the Father (cf. Jn. 1:34; Mt. 3:17).

The phrase in 3:17, “in whom I am well pleased” ties with the Messianic Servant passage in Isaiah 42.

Slide # 28**Isaiah 42:1 (NKJV)**

1 “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, **My Elect One in whom My soul delights!** I have **put My Spirit upon Him;** He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

Realize that God saying, “***This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased***” was stated by the Father at the beginning of Christ’s ministry. It looks back over the last 30 years of mostly silence – in what are called the “***hidden years***” in Nazareth. There in the “***routine***” of life God had quietly been preparing Jesus for this time when He would be revealed as the Messiah and then go forth to His public ministry culminating in His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection. Thus, the Father affirmed that Christ as His Son “***had lived in perfect harmony with Heaven.***” (John Phillips)

How wonderful that the Father affirmed all those “***silent years***” of preparation. They weren’t wasted years. God the Father was well pleased with His Son. This too was part of God’s plan.

It is a good reminder that just because we aren’t always in the public eye, just because we might be in a “silent time” where it seems we are just bidding time, yet, God has a purpose, and His timing is perfect.

And in those times as we are faithful to walk with God, we can be well pleasing to Him, even though these mundane or routine times might not seem as exciting or fruitful. It all works together for good for those who love God (Rom. 8:28).

God was well pleased with His beloved Son. He is the One in Whom God's soul delights in.

He pleased God supremely because He was the perfect Servant/Slave. His obedience's was 100% all the time. He did nothing but please the Father in His role of humility. There was no exception. He never sinned.

Note the Trinity is represented in Isaiah 42:1 and three other places in Isaiah.

Slide # 29

Trinitarian References in Isaiah

Isa. 42:1 "I," "My Servant," and "My Spirit"

Isa. 48:16 "the Lord GOD," "I," and "His Spirit"

Isa. 61:1 "the LORD," "Me," and "the Spirit of the Lord GOD"

Isa. 63:7-10 "the LORD," "the Angel of His presence, and "His Holy Spirit"

The reality of the Trinity is also clearly seen here in Matthew 3:16-17. The Son is baptized; the Spirit descends; and the Father speaks (cf. Mt. 28:19; Jn. 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-13; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 1 Thess. 1:2-5; 1 Pet. 1:2).

Not only is the Trinity foundational, it is also unique to Christianity. Of the three major monotheistic religions of the world (Judaism, Islam, Christianity) only Christianity teaches the Trinity. Human reason, however, cannot fathom the Trinity, nor can logic explain it, and, although the word itself is not found in the Scriptures, the doctrine is plainly taught in the Scriptures. ... the Trinity...is arguably the most distinctive doctrine of Christianity. ...Understanding that God is a Triune God and always has been a Triune God became the cornerstone of Christian theology that distinguished it from paganism and from other monotheistic religions. – **David Burggraff**

Denying the doctrine of the triune nature of God is often the distinguishing mark of a cult or false religion. There is no way to compromise on this truth. It's a perfect example of why it's so illogical to claim that all religions are the same. – **Daryl Witmer**

All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that “God is love.” But they seem not to notice that the words “God is love” have no real meaning unless God contains at least two persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God were a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love.

– **C.S. Lewis**

For God to be fully personal, then, capable of love and community, there must be genuine plurality within the divine being itself. Historic Christian theology teaches that these interpersonal attributes were expressed from all eternity among the three Persons of the Trinity.

- **Nancy Pearcey**

Slide # 30

THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Baptism of Jesus – Mt. 3:16-17

The Son was baptized
The Spirit appeared as a dove
The Father Spoke

Baptism of all believers – Mt. 28:19

All believers are baptized in the name of
The Father,
the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

Angel Gabriel's words to Mary – Lk. 1:35

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you.”
“The power of the Highest will overshadow you.”
“The Holy One to be will be called the Son of God.”

Slide # 31

Indwelling in all believers – Rom. 8:9-11

“Spirit of God dwells in you.”
“Christ in you.”
“the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.”

Paul's benediction – 2 Cor. 13:14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ”

“The love of God”

“The communion of the Holy Spirit”

So, note the theme that Matthew is driving home:

Jesus meets all the OT genealogical requirements to be the Messiah (check).

Jesus as Messiah, in accordance with prophecy, was born in the right place -Bethlehem of Judea. (check).

The Messiah, in worship, would receive gifts from the Gentiles. Thus, the wise men came from the East to worship the newborn King of the Jews. (Check)

Jesus lived in Nazareth fulfilling the prophetic portrait that He would be a despised person (check).

Jesus had a forerunner crying in the wilderness in keeping with Messianic prophecy (check).

Jesus experienced a most unique anointing of the Holy Spirit at His baptism in keeping with Messianic prophecy (check).

See the pattern? The life of Jesus Christ matches perfectly in fulfillment of all the Messianic prophecies in the OT. He truly is the Christ – the prophesied COMING ONE Who would be the divine/human Savior.

The only question that remains is this: Is He your personal Lord and Savior? It's not enough to know the truth intellectually, we must respond to it from the heart!

The Bible says....

Acts 16:31 (NKJV)

31 So they said, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household.”

And it also says,

“***Behold, now is the accepted time...***” (2 Cor. 6:2)

The last invitation in the Bible is “Come” (Rev. 22:17). No one can do it for you! Come To Christ – Believe on Him today!