

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 3:

vs. 1-12

John the Baptizer was preaching in the desert, yet still attracted large audiences. He was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 40:3), concerning a forerunner to the Messiah.

John lived a very simple life, but his message was compelling, bringing people to him, who then confessed their sin and were baptized. His baptism was done by immersion. Those wanting to be baptized were to confess their sins, show works of repentance, and then be immersed. At this baptism, the Holy Spirit was not given (Acts 19:1-5).

John saw the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and denounced their conduct. He warned them that they could easily be replaced by God and that their very existence was in jeopardy.

vs. 13-17

Jesus came to John to be baptized. John hesitated, expressing that Jesus should instead baptize him. Jesus differed from the others that John had been baptizing in that He showed no signs of remorse or guilt, and did not even make a confession of His guilt, because He was SINLESS! Jesus was baptized to dedicate Himself to His life-long mission, it was an act of self-consecration.

When Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove and landed upon Him. God then spoke saying that Jesus was His Son, in whom He was pleased. This is the first example of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 3:

1. Who came and preached in the Desert of Judea?
2. What did this man say?
3. What had Isaiah said about him?
4. What did this man wear and eat?
5. What did those who came to him, do?
6. What did he tell the Sadducees and Pharisees to produce?
7. What could God do with stones?
8. What did John baptize with?
9. What did John say about the baptism of the one coming after him?
10. Why did Jesus come to the Jordan?
11. What descended?
12. What did the voice from heaven say?

BONUS:

1. What was the importance of John's ministry, in your opinion?
2. Are there different baptisms today? Is re-baptism Biblical?
3. Of what importance are the events following Jesus' baptism?