

Matthew's Gospel—Chapter 3

Part 2

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Do only the questions with ***

The Baptism of Jesus: Matt 3:13-17:

1. ***Compare the different Gospel accounts of Jesus' Baptism: Take a look at the Gospels below that are placed in parallel and answer the questions on the next page.

18. The Baptism of Jesus			
Matt. 3.13-17 17.5 (no. 16 3.11-12 p. 14)	Mark 1.9-11 9.7 (no. 16 1.7-8 p. 14)	Luke 3.21-22 9.35	John 1.29-34 12.28-30 (no. 16 1.24-28 p. 14)
13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented.	9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove;	21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove,	29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."
16 And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him;	11 and a voice came from heaven,	23 and a voice came from heaven,	32 And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."
17.5 (no. 161, p. 153)	9.7 (no. 161, p. 153)	9.35 (no. 161, p. 153)	12.28-30 (no. 302, p. 271)
17 He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said,	11 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud,	23 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying,	27 "Father, glorify thy name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

- a. ***What are the details in the other Gospels that Matthew doesn't have? Here are some questions to consider: To whom is God's voice addressed in each account and what is the significance of the difference? How and why do you think John's account is different?

- b. ***When you are studying a passage in a particular Gospel, it helps to compare what the other Gospels say about the same passage, so that you can see what your Gospel is trying to highlight that is different. As you compared the Gospels, what is unique to Matthew?

2. ***^{RSV} Matthew 3:15: "But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

- a. *** "It is fitting *for us* to fulfill all *righteousness*." What does Jesus mean by this? Jesus is the "Holy One," "the Righteous One." Why does Jesus need to be baptized?
 - 1) ***"Fulfill all *righteousness*." Read Mat 1:19; Mat 5:20 and Mat 21:32. Do these shed any light on the meaning of what Jesus is saying? New Testament scholar, N.T. Wright says that the state of righteousness means to be declared "in the right" by God. Does this help to clarify John's Baptism and how?

- 2) What might the "for us" signify? Jesus could have said that it is fitting "for him."

3. *****Symbolism: Spirit and Water:**
- a. ***Look up the two words Spirit and water in biblegateway. Look at the first reference you find in Genesis. What theme might this add to your passage in Mat?
4. *****Symbolism: Dove:**
- a. ***Look up the two word Dove in biblegateway. Read the whole chapter of the book you found it in. What are the themes in this story? What meaning might this add to the Baptism account?
5. *****Theophany: This word combines two Greek words: *theo*=God and *phaneia*=to appear. A theophany is an appearance or manifestation of God or when God shows up or makes himself present. Specifically, a theophany is when the invisible God reveals his presence or character through something physical. In the Old Testament, God manifests himself through the physical signs of fire, clouds, darkness, wind, thunderstorm, “the heavens being opened up”, thunder, God’s Glory, or God’s voice.**
- a. *** Read the passages below from the Old Testament and write down which of the physical signs you see in each?
 - 1) *****Exodus 3:1-6:**

 - 2) *****Exodus 14:19-20:**

 - 3) ***** Exodus 19:16-19:**

 - 4) *****Deuteronomy 4:12:** What is the connection between this passage and yours? This passage describes the giving of the law, the Mosaic Covenant. How does it shed light on the Baptism of Jesus?

 - 5) ***** Ezekiel 1-4:**

- 6) ***Ezekiel 1:1:28-2:7: A Theophany is often linked to a “Call Narrative” of a prophet or leader. Often when the Lord appears to a person, he speaks with them and calls them to do a particular mission. This is a continuation of the Theophany to Ezekiel above. What does God call Ezekiel to do? Could the Theophany to Jesus in Matthew (the Baptism of Jesus) also be his Prophetic Calling?

- b. ***What are the signs of Theophany in the Baptism Account of Jesus in Matthew?

Who is Jesus?

6. *** ^{RSV} Matthew 3:17: “and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved (*agapetos*) Son (*huios*), with whom I am well pleased (*eudokeo*).”
- a. ***The voice from heaven is the voice of God, the voice of the Father. Whenever God speaks, he reveals something of himself. What does God reveal about the Son at Jesus’ baptism? We will seek to uncover this in this section.
- b. ***Son: In the Baptism account, Jesus is called God’s Son. Who was God’s son in the Old Testament? Look up “Son” in Biblegateway.
- 1) Find the 2nd reference in Exodus 4. Who is the Son in this verse? You’ve already learned the answer to this question from a previous lesson. In Ex 4:22, Israel is God’s First Born Son.
 - 2) Find the 1st reference in Hosea 11. Who is the Son in this verse? You know this too. In Hos 11:1, Israel is God’s son.
 - 3) ***Find the 1st reference in the Psalms. Read the whole chapter. What is happening in this verse? Who is the Son in this verse? Your teacher can help you with this.
 - 4) ***Look up the reference in Psalm 72. Who is the Son in this verse?

- c. *****Spirit:** What is the role of the Spirit in the Old Testament? Do a word search in Biblegateway on the word “Spirit”:
- 1) Look through some of the references in the book of Judges. On whom does the Spirit come down in this book?

 - 2) *******Look at the second reference in 1 Sam 10. On whom does the Spirit come down and what does this person do when it does?

 - 3) *******Look at the second reference in the book of Nehemiah. Through whom does this say the Spirit works?

 - 4) Look at the second reference in Ezekiel 11. What is the Spirit doing through Ezekiel and what kind of a figure is he?

 - 5) *******Look at the first reference in 1 Samuel 16: What is Samuel doing in this passage? The Hebrew word for “anoint” is the word “Messiah.” Who is it that the Spirit is coming down upon? What meaning might this add to Jesus’ Baptism? What might this imply about Jesus’ identity?
- d. *****Delight, Spirit:** Do a search on both of these words together. You will find only one passage.
- 1) *******How does the phrasing of this passage look like the phrasing of the words at Jesus’ Baptism? What is similar about the two passages?

2) ***Who is this passage talking about? Your teacher can help you with this.

e. *****Son, Love:** Do a search on both of these words together. Look at the first reference that you find in the book of Genesis:

1) ***What is this passage describing? (look at the whole passage in context)

2) ***What is about to happen to the son in this passage?

3) ***Does this passage change anything in the Jewish understanding of Messiahship?

4) ***What insight does this passage add to Jesus' Baptism?

7. Additional passages in the New Testament that develop the themes from Jesus' Baptism.

a. **2 Peter 1:16-18:** To what event is the author of 2 Peter referring in this passage? How is he interpreting the event?

b. **Acts 13:33:** What passage is this quoting from? To whom is this passage comparing and contrasting Jesus? (look at it in context)

c. **Hebrews 1:1-14:** How is Hebrews interpreting Jesus' Sonship in this passage?

d. **Hebrews 5:5-10:** How is Hebrews interpreting Jesus' Sonship in this passage?

8. *****Summary:** Write a short summary of what the Baptism of Jesus signifies and what it tells us about Jesus' identity.