

Messiah of whose coming the prophecies and types had for many ages borne witness.

At first, John refused to confer his baptism on Christ. But Christ said, "Suffer it to be so now, as suited to my state of humiliation, my state as a substitute in the room of sinners." Jesus' baptism was voluntary, the same as his act of becoming incarnate. Yet, if the work that Jesus was engaged to accomplish was to be completed, then it became necessary for him to become the likeness of a sinner, and to fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:15)

It was in his official capacity that Jesus submitted to baptism. Jesus was not made under the law on his own account. The administration of the rite of baptism was also a symbol of the baptism of suffering before Him in this official capacity (Luke 12:50). In thus presenting himself he in effect dedicated or consecrated himself to the work of fulfilling all righteousness.

***(excerpted from: //ml-soft.com)

PRAYER

O Holy Trinity, Eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
I thank You for the cleansing water of Baptism
that has allowed me to belong to You fully.

Father, I am Your child.

Jesus, You are my savior and my brother.

Holy Spirit, You are my guide and You are my love.

Mary, my mother, you have given us the Body
of your Son and through my Baptism,
I have become a part of that Body.
Thank you for praying for me
now and at the hour of my death.

Amen.

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MEDITATION

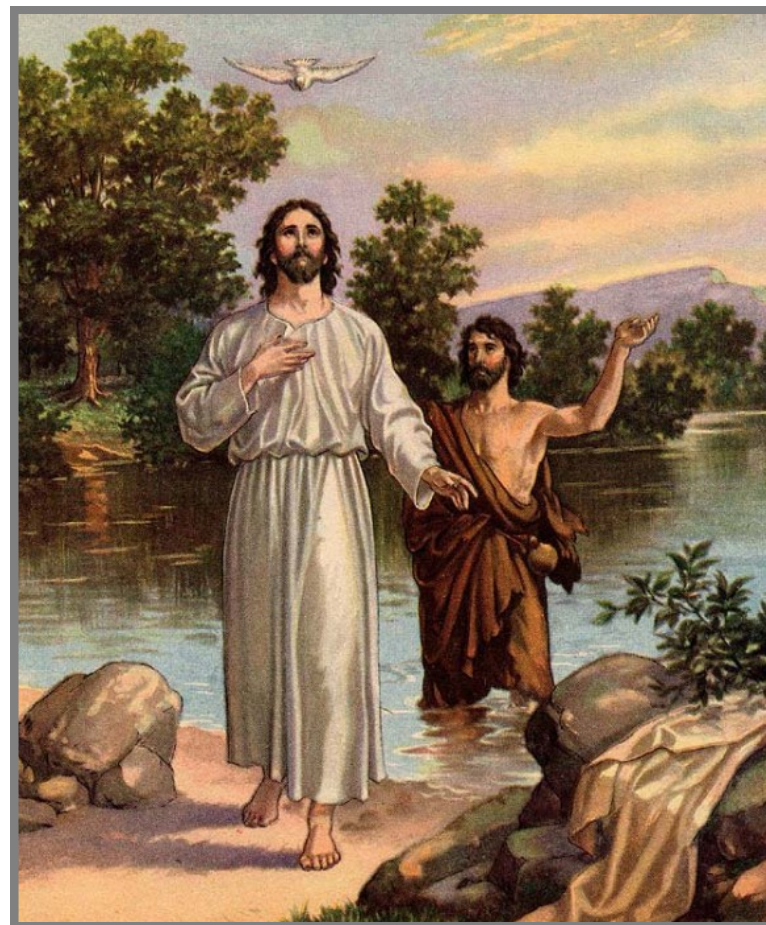
Jesus, through Your humility in being Baptized by John,
the glory of the Holy Trinity was revealed.
I am not fit to undo the strap of Your sandals and
yet You give Yourself to me fully
in the Holy Sacraments of Your church.

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The Baptism of Jesus

January 13th



...And John gave testimony, saying: "*I saw the Spirit coming down, as a dove from heaven, and He remained upon Him. And I knew Him not; but He Who sent me to baptize with water, said to me:*

He upon Whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining upon Him,

He it is that baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

And I saw, and I gave testimony, that this is the Son of God".

(John 1: 29-34)

The Baptism of Jesus

***The Baptism of Jesus** marks the beginning of Jesus Christ's public ministry. This event is recorded in the Canonical Gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke. A careful reading of the Gospel according to John in John 1:29-33 also points at the event of the Baptism of Jesus which is described there. The event of the Baptism of Jesus is also recorded in the apocryphal Gospel of the Hebrews.

John the Baptist preached a baptism for the forgiveness of sins and in so doing he was preparing the way for the Lord. Jesus came to the Jordan River where he was baptized by John at a site traditionally known as Qasr al-yahud (the Jews' Castle). This event concluded with the heavens opening, a dove-like descent of the Holy Spirit, and a voice from Heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." The voice combines key phrases from the Old Testament: "My Son (The Davidic King as God's adopted son in Psalms 2) and Psalm 10 ; "beloved" "(Isaac in Genesis 22); and "with whom I am well pleased" (the servant of God in Isaiah 42:1).

*(excerpted from: //en.wikipedia.org)

****The nature of God** is confirmed by the words spoken above at Jesus' Baptism for it confirms the doctrine of the trinity. Besides John the Baptist, there are three individuals presented in the baptism:

- God the Father in Heaven
- Jesus the Son of God, and
- The Holy Spirit descending from Heaven.

The godhead consists of three beings: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

** (excerpted from: www.lifeofchrist.com)

*****The people in the Holy Land** had no doubt that John the Baptist had authority to baptize. If there was anything that the Jews kept track of, it was whether or not a claim to divine rights was backed up by the correct credentials. This was very important to them since the rights of the priestly ministry were given only to men of the Aaronic, or Levitical lineage. John was known to have these credentials.

The Jews never questioned the very act of baptism. It was not an invention of John. In fact, it was a saving ordinance from the very beginning of time. As long as man has committed sins, baptism for the remission of sins has been necessary for salvation. What made John the Baptist so unique was that he took this ordinance, which had become an ordinance of little or no value to the Jews, who lived a harder, more proud and sinful life as time went on, and put it out there, demanding that people would be baptized for the right reasons.

John was told by his mother and father that the Messiah was born and that he was closely related to him. While in his mother's womb, the Holy Ghost testified to John of Jesus, when Mary, early with the child Jesus came to visit Elizabeth. The mission of John was to "prepare the way of the Lord, and "to make his paths straight." It was the followers of John who became the followers of Jesus. Even two of John's apostles became apostles to Jesus. John indeed prepared the way of the Lord.

To be baptized by John was to be committed to the Messiah. There was no contradiction in the gospel preached by John and that was later preached by Jesus. The Spirit of truth converted John's listeners to his message. His message was very clear; we are all sinners and must therefore repent and be baptized. If we don't, we will be damned. It was clear to everyone who heard him that this baptism was not enough to be saved. It was only the beginning. John promised that after him would come the greater thing, the Messiah, who would not just baptize with water unto repentance, but would baptize with fire and the Holy Ghost.

The baptism of John is of no worth if it is not followed by the baptism of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist said to his followers that it was the Lamb of God who came to baptize with the Holy Ghost, and to take away the sins of the world. So, baptism in water is unto repentance, which cleansing is then completed in the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In other words, the baptism of water brings people unto Christ, desiring forgiveness; the baptism of Jesus Christ actually cleanses these people. So in perfect harmony with logic; the baptism of Jesus Christ, or the baptism of fire, is the ordinance through which the blood of the savior is applied to cleanse our soul.

Those who had received the baptism of John had to be re-baptized in order to receive the baptism of Jesus Christ. Since Jesus had to start an entirely new Church, baptism in water also became the ceremony, or gate, through which one has to enter this Church. Having received the baptism of John had given the baptized the status of wanting the forgiveness of their sins, they still had not gone through the initiation rite for membership in the kingdom. Before receiving the baptism of Jesus Christ, or the baptism of fire, or baptism of the Holy Ghost, they first had to be baptized by Jesus or one of his authorized apostles or seventies.

*** (excerpted from: www.jesus-explained.org)

*****Christ** had to be formally inaugurated into the public discharge of his offices. For this purpose he came to John, who was the representative of the law and the prophets, that by him he might be introduced into his offices, and thus be publicly recognized as the