

18. Jesus' Baptism

Introduction: The previous story was about Joseph and Mary, the birth of Jesus, and the presentation of Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem where he was given to God. Jesus grew up day by day, and became a young man.

God also prepared another messenger who came ahead of Jesus to tell the people that the savior had come. (Luke 2:22, 40; 3:4–5)

This man was named John. He slept in the countryside. One day, God talked to him. After John listened to what God has said, he went to a place close by a river, to tell people about God's truth. He told the people, "You all must come back to God, and be baptized to show that you are willing to leave your sins, and beg for forgiveness from God." (Luke 3:2–3)

Soon many religious leaders came to hear what John had to say about God's truth. John saw them and told them, "You are like snakes! Who said that you can escape from God's judgment? Do not think that just because you are Abraham's descendants, you can escape? You have to show that you really obey God's word in your daily life." (Matthew 3:7–9)

Therefore, many people came to ask John, "What should we do?" (Luke 3:10)

John answered them, "If you have two sets of clothes, give one to those who have none. Those who have food should do the same." (Luke 3:11)

There were also soldiers who came to ask John, "How about us, what should we do?" (Luke 3:14)

John said, "Do not beat people, do not use your own power to intimidate people, do not create false evidence to wrongly accuse people and be content with the money you have made." (Luke 3:14)

At this time, everyone thought that the savior that God had promised would come very soon. They were wondering: Was John the savior that God was giving them? (Luke 15)

John then told them, "I use water to baptize you. One that is more powerful than me will come in the future. He will use God's spirit to baptize you. I am not even worthy to tie up his sandals." (Luke 3:16)

One day, Jesus also came to John, asking John to baptize him. (Luke 3:21)

John told Jesus, "I should be baptized by you. Do you really want me to turn around and baptize you?" (Matthew 3:14)

Jesus answered him, "Yes, you should do this! God will like this."

So John baptized Jesus. The sky opened up, God's spirit descended on Jesus' body and from the sky a voice called down, "You are my son; I am pleased with you!" (Matthew 3:15-17)