

## **The Work of John The Baptist**

When I look at God's Word and see the life of John, I see a rough looking man dressed in camel hair and leather and a commanding voice. John was very bold and would not compromise God's instructions, would not make an exception even for the king.

John's mission was for God, and it was two-fold.

### **1. John was to prepare a people.**

In Luke 1:67-80 John's father Zacharis, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied of his son [76] "And you child will be called a prophet of the Highest: for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways," [77] To give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins."

Baptism was introduced as part of John's message in preparing the people (Mark 1:4-5) – "And there came out to him, Judea and Jerusalem and were baptized by him in River Jordan."

(John 1:23) John said he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight (Isaiah 40:3-5)

### **2. The second part of John's mission was to introduce Jesus, who is the Christ.**

John 1:26 I baptize you with water, but there stands one among you whom you do not know, it is he who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoes I'm not worthy to unloose. [29] "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold (look) the Lamb of God (God's sacrifice) who take away the sin of the world."

(In John 1:32-34) John bears witness that Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God.

God also spoke at Jesus baptism: "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

John was born from the family of the Levis. His father was a priest and his mother was from the daughters of Aaron. John was chosen by God to carry out His message; and carry out he did!

He was beheaded by King Herod. Herod took his brother Phillip's wife (Herodias) and she didn't like John telling them it was unlawful.

John was very bold carrying out God's will. John was never in the church (kingdom) but lived and died under the law of Moses.

John never started a church, but only came to get the people ready for the one who purchased the church with His own blood, Jesus the Christ.

Listen what Jesus said about John (they were cousins). In Matthew 11:11 "Verily I say unto you, them that are born of woman there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist. Not withstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Jesus took Peter, James and John up on the mountain to pray and he was transfigured before them and did shine as the sun in its strength at mid-day. And there appeared with Him Moses (law giver representing Mosaic age) and Elijah (representing Patriarch age). They were discussing how that Christ must go into Jerusalem, suffer and die for the sins of the world.

When Jesus came down, Peter said let us make (build) three tabernacles (ways to worship), one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah. God spoke from Heaven, "This is my beloved son hear ye him." (Luke 9:29-36)

God was telling the disciples (Peter, James and John) don't worship Moses! Don't worship Elijah! Worship Jesus, the Christ, my Beloved Son.

In Galatians 1:6-9 the apostle Paul tells the church not to believe any gospel except what God had sent to them by himself and the other apostles, the gospel of Jesus Christ. You see, there were liars even in the first century.

In I Corinthians 10:13 Paul addressed division and told them to all speak the same thing perfectly (completely) joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment.

Christ is not divided! Were you baptized in the name (by the authority) of Paul? Was I (Paul) crucified for you?

No Christ is not divided but many would have you think that He is.

Let us all come back to the teaching of God's Holy Word (the Bible). Speak where the bible speaks! Be silent where the bible is silent! In so doing, Christ will not be divided and there would be only one way to worship. After all, this is what God's word commands.

**- JAMES FERGUSON**