

Can I Get a Witness

The Revelation of a Servant

Lets read: **Mk 1:1–11** “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.” ³“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ” ⁴John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. ⁵Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. ⁸I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” ⁹It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.””

1. Says Mark v1 2. Says Prophecy v2-3 3. Say John v4-8 4. Says Holy Spirit v9-11

Says Mark 1

Mk 1:1 “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

A. So the testimony of Mark is that this Jesus is Christ (not just a title, but he uses it as his name. He IS literally, the Messiah) he isn’t just the king of Israel, but is also, THE Son of God.

- B. Begins - this really commences (starts) (though his death was before time) the Gospel actively grinding gears. Finally a real answer to
- i. Its easier to talk about the gospel with those who have been raised learning the Bible (in the sense that they have a bg) the same was true of the Jews of the early church. They knew their sin via the law, they knew their failure.
 - ii. For many in our time, to be told they are sinners is highly offenseive. So we have to show them through the law that they have sinned. Not to condemn. That get that. But to show them the reason for good news. Some have said, your shouting a solution when I don't see a problem. Its always a good news/bad news. They need to know the bad so that the good really shines.
 - iii. When we see the utter failure of our wicked hearts being able to save us, we really can say, Jesus saving us is news that makes our hearts happy! Truly it does! Look in **1 Co 6:11** "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." We see how living in unrepentant sin absolutely prevents you from entering heaven. Period. Thats why it take Jesus and Holy Spirit to Justify and Sanctify us! That dependent on him, not us.

Says Prophecy 2-3

Mk 1:2-3 "As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." ³"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' ""

A. He quotes Mal. 3:1 and Is 40:3 here. As we have discussed, often times, reading the quoted verses in context opens up what He is saying for us even more. Turn to Isaiah first as this is quoted in every gospel:

- i. **Is 40:1–3** *““Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. ²“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord’s hand Double for all her sins.” ³The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord *yahweh*; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God *elohim*.”*
 1. Way of and Way for. Who? Jesus is Who?
 2. **Is 40:9** *“O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!””*
- ii. **Mal 3:1–3** *““Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the **Lord**, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts. ²“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For **He** is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.”*
 1. **Heb 12:28–29** *“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God*

acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹For our God is a consuming fire.”

2. Believe me, as fish, we needed a lot of cleaning. And he was certainly fully up for the task! Notice, this is all about this John guy!

Says John 4-8

Mk 1:4–5 “John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. ⁵Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.”

A. Baptizing out where Joshua crossed when Israel first came to Canaan, John tells us Beth-bara.

- i. This baptism was of: Repentance, For: Remission of Sins. Strange wording which would be strange to most religious folks in Israel.
- ii. But the nation is flocking to John. They sense the messiah is close. They see the occupation of Rome. They know that they need to repent! Not just be covered but be repentant, to change!
 1. When they received this, they confessed their sins. **Jas 5:16** “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” This healing, this entering in, its not in confessing, but in confessing we rob the devil of accusation. We take away his ability to extort us, because we are open!

B. **Why do they think he is Elijah?** Partly because of what we see the prophets in the Bible look like - let's look real quick, **Mk 1:6** “Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.”

- i. Camel unclean to eat only. No law about touching or wearing. The hair would be good against rain and elements.
 - ii. This description is what we see they keep thinking he is Elijah *eli-ya-hu* (he said he wasn't in John 1, Jesus said he really was in Mat 11) because Elijah describe in 2Kg 1:8 as hairy man wearing leather belt around waist.
 - iii. As we get into the description of "**John**" he was what we call an 'Asedik' Some strange examples, during the fourth century, hundreds of ascetics sought to escape temptation and punish their bodies by living as hermits. The extremes to which they went in their attempts to deny gratification of "physical lusts" seem incredible. St. Ascepsimas wore so many chains that he had to crawl around on hands and knees. Besarion, a monk, would not even give in to his body's desire for restful sleep—for forty years he would not lie down while sleeping. Macarius the Younger sat naked in a swamp for six months until mosquito bites made him look like a victim of leprosy. St. Maron spent eleven years in a hollowed-out tree trunk. Others lived in caves, dens of beasts, dry wells—even tombs. To suffer the discomfort of filth, stench, worms, and maggots was considered to be spiritually beneficial and a sign of victory over the body." Though it isnt. John doesn't explain why he does this. Others try to say John took nazarite vow, but we don't know that. John is just doing what he is told. We could wear hair, eat bugs and sleep sitting up for the rest of our lives wouldn't make us prophets. That is a gift, a calling, an Election.
- C. fyi: Most describe the locust as taste and texture very similar to shrimp that aren't strong (shrimpy). I think I would like locust. Mostly they would grind the locust up after drying and make into bread.

Mk 1:7-8 “And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. ⁸I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.””

- A. John knows his place. And it isn't even the low man in the slave pool. See the low guys would take the sandals off visitors and wash their feet. John says he isn't worthy to do that for him.
- B. He also sees that the Son has authority to immerse us in the spirit. Not he may, but will. This intonate not that one will replace the other, but that they are approached in much the same way. Repentance for remission of sins. Taking off the old man, putting on new. (**Eph 4:22** “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,”)
- C. Have you been baptized? The word is baptizo, used of those that immersed cloth into dyes to take on color of the dye. It required becoming something different. Also used of dipping a bowl into water to fill the cup. Immersion of the container, to fill what was empty. Hmmm.
- i. Have you? Lets pray right now. Last point:

Says Holy Spirit 9-11

Mk 1:9-11 “It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.””

- A. Do your job John! Lol, I always think well his job title is “the baptist” right? He preached guys. Mostly repent! But he preached that one was coming. John says people need to change!

- i. God gives John a confirmation in that when Jesus comes up, he sees a physical manifestation of the holy spirit coming on Jesus.
 - ii. Also hears (we don't hear like this. Not many times this happens in scripture to people) a physical voice. Others heard it like thunder.
 - iii. In NKJV the He in v10 caps. I don't like when this done. Because other occurrence in Matt/Luke say same as this, but in Jn 1:29-34 this is "witnessed" by John.
- B. The holy spirit says Jesus is son of God. Jesus is Messiah. Jesus is the Gospel.
- C. Notice in passing, that he says, this my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. What did Jesus do before this? Was good Jewish son. Worked family biz. Those of you who feel you aren't doing anything but working, **Col 3:23** "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,!" What a blessing at how he is blessed!
- i. This isn't a vision. This is like someone seeing another dimension touch ours. It's the ultimate fringe episode, but real. This isn't a fantasy. This happened. Heaven/holy spirit confirmed this commencement. Gave testimony to who Jesus is. All of these say, he is the son of God, and forgiveness from sin is in his name! Yeshua - God Saves!

In closing. Can I ask you this? Throw a weird thought out there that kinda bugged me? I have heard so many other teachers that Jesus was baptized because of this, or that. Or for this or that. But what does the scripture alone say? **Mt 3:15** "But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him." I like how the NLT translates this: **Mt 3:15** "But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to

baptize him.” In Matthew the word righteousness is used as what God requires. Not just being “pure” and right. The reason? Because God said so. We should do the same. Just do what god says to do. To obey and watch how God works in us!

What does this mean for us? Well we need to obey and be baptized. If you haven't been baptized as an adult, could I say, you need to be obedient to his word and get it done. Paul describes baptism as: **Col 2:11–12** “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Lets seek his washing spirit right now!

stand / pray / sing.