



Timeless lives from the God-Story

JOHN THE BAPTIST: ELIJAH HAS COME!

JOHN 1-3, 6

400 years before John the Baptist was born the last Old Testament prophet said “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.” (Malachi 4:5,6) Many years before that Isaiah the prophet spoke of a voice crying out in the wilderness (Isaiah 40). Jesus left little doubt that this prophet was none other than John the Baptist (Matthew 11:14; 17:12).

John 1-3

Who does John identify himself to be? What is the essence of his description of who Jesus is? What convinced John of Jesus’ identity? In what ways did John prepare the way for Christ? In what ways were there similarities between Jesus’ and John’s ministries and teachings? Why were people coming to John to be baptized? What did John see as the most important transition from himself (the voice) and Jesus (the Lamb of God)? What strikes you about this man (John)?

Matthew 3:1-12

How did John relate to the religious leaders of the Jews? What was the source of his conflict with them? What was he trying to tell the people? The religious leaders?

Matthew 11:1-6

What were John’s challenges of faith? What passage does Jesus quote and why and what kind of effect do you suppose it had on John in prison?

Mark 6:14-29

In what ways was John’s death impacting King Herod? Why is there confusion over who John the Baptist and Jesus were? How does the story of John’s death make you feel? How do you suppose it impacted his followers (many of whom were now following Jesus)?

John the Baptist knew his role was to decrease so that Jesus could increase. This is a huge lesson in spiritual servanthood. It is precisely our willingness to die to our own desires and personal “rights” that qualifies us for use in God’s purposes. While other men posture to improve their position spiritually or materially, servants of the kingdom subject both to the honor of the King!

My conclusions from this study...
