



Title: The Preparation of the King (part 3) – The Baptism of the King

Text: Matt. 3:13-17

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Introduction:

1. Chapter 3&4 encompasses the preparation of the King.
2. Last week we saw three aspects of John the Baptist's Preaching: He rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees, He warned of judgment, and He declared the greatness of the Messiah.
3. Today, we will look at the Baptism of the King.

I. The Reason for the Baptism (vv.13-15)

- A. Jesus traveled from Galilee to Jordan – (approx. 97km/60mi.).
- B. To be baptized – literally means to be dipped or to be immersed. This is unique to the N.T. vs. O.T. “cleansings” or “washings.” This word is a transliteration of the Greek word: (βαπτίζω - *baptizō*).
- C. John the Baptist reacted in the same way humans react to Deity: reluctance. This is not a question of ability but willingness.
- D. The reason for Christ's baptism: “To fulfill all righteousness.”
 - i. Christ acknowledges God's ordinance and authority. He submits to God!
 - ii. “it becometh” means it is proper or fitting or appropriate – to submit to God.
 - iii. The people's reason for baptism – outward testimony of repentance from sin – but not Christ – for he has no sin to repent of.

II. The Results of Jesus' Baptism (vv.16-17)

- A. Identification:
 1. Christ identifies Himself with the repentant remnant of believers, the people that were prepared for by John the Baptist.
 2. People that submit to Christian baptism have repented of sin and desire to be identified with Christ and His assembly (of baptized disciples).
 3. Our baptism is an identification (ex. wedding ring, badge, uniform).
- B. Jesus accredits John's ministry of preaching and baptizing disciples.
 1. The Kingdom is indeed at hand.
 2. Repentance is necessary.
- C. Inauguration of the Messiah into His public ministry: Preaching, Teaching, Healing, and Church Planting. God appointed Jesus to perform His Messianic work.
 1. John's baptism publicly identified Christ as the Son of God (Jn. 1:29-34).
 2. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power (Acts 10:37-38).
- D. Jesus' baptism “fulfills” three more Old Testament Scriptures:
 1. It demonstrates that Jesus is the “Son” of Psalm 2:7.
 2. It fulfills Isa. 42:1 – Jesus is the servant of the LORD in whom Jehovah delights in.
 3. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit (Isa. 61:1-2a).

Conclusion:

1. Matthew continues to prove that Jesus Christ is the Messiah-King. In Chapter 1 – Matthew declares the glories of the Messiah's person. In Chapter 2 – Matthew shows the two kinds of reception concerning the Messiah-King: worship or rejection. In Chapter 3 – Matthew presents the forerunner of the King, and the preparation for the King – The King Himself accredits John's ministry and receives his baptism.
2. Where are we in the plan of God relative to Jesus Christ – the Messiah-King? This is what life is truly about.