



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Humble and Bold Prophet

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke is writing to Theophilus so the he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke communicates eyewitness accounts and carefully researches all that has been taught and handed down about Jesus (1:1-4). Additionally, Luke lays the ground work and carefully shares key secular events that provide historical and prophetic perspective. In the first several verses of chapter three Luke provide a dateline by communicating that Tiberius Caesar was in the fifteenth year of his reign (A.D. 25-26), Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea and the tetrarch of Galilee and Perea was Herod (Antipas). Additionally, the high priesthood was of Annas (Jn 18:13) and Caiaphas (Mt 26:57), all of who will be involved in the arrest of Jesus. Importantly during this time a messenger from God, John (the Baptist), the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth publically appears after living in the wilderness or desert. In the desert John grew physically and became strong spiritually (Luke 1:80). John would be great in the sight of the Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit, turn many of the sons of Israel back to God and be a forerunner before Him, Jesus, to make ready those prepared for the Lord (Lk 1:15-17). While John was the last prophet of the OT and a subject of prophecy (Is 40:3-5), the people were expecting the Messiah and started to wonder about the nature of John.

“Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ, John answered and said to them all, “As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. “His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Luke 3:15-17 NASB)

The people were expecting and wondering. The people were wondering in their hearts because John was filled with the Holy Spirit (1:15) and because John, like Elijah (1Ki18:17-24; Mk6:15 Mal 4:5, 6), spoke boldly, powerfully and uncompromisingly in proclaiming the Word of God to all people; paupers and kings. With this powerful bold speech, the people wondered if John was the Messiah, the Christ. John provided perspective in his response to them.

“He is mightier than I..” John, in his response, shares that he is not the Messiah and that the Messiah is so much more than what he, John, could ever be. John provides an additional perspective that Jews would understand. He, John, shares that he is *“not fit to untie the thong of His sandals”*. In Jewish life, untying or unfastening the thong of sandals was the lowest of the low slave’s tasks. John shares with the people that he is not fit or worthy of that humble task for the Messiah. John ‘the Baptist’ also shares a perspective about baptism.

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” John shares three types of baptism. John baptized with water for repentance (Mk3:11). However, the Messiah, will baptize with the Holy Spirit or Spiritually baptize all who accept the Messiah (1Co12:13). Additionally, the Messiah will ultimately baptize with fire or judgment all those that reject the Messiah. John furthers the teaching by providing a farming example. John shares that the Messiah, like a farmer, will gather His harvest, the grain; His followers. Additionally, He will discard or burn the chaff; those that reject Him.

For Your Consideration:

- What is your relationship with the Messiah?
- Do you believe that the Messiah is mightier than you?
- Have you accepted or rejected Jesus the Messiah? Are you part of the harvest or part of the chaff?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44