



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Baptism of Christ

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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. John the Baptist 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. John would 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), he never compromised the gospel that he was chosen by God to carry to the people. One of the last events described by Luke of John the Baptist was the baptism of Jesus the Christ. While the gospels of Matthew (3:13-17), Mark (1:9-11) and John (1:32-34) contain similar insight into the baptism of Jesus, Luke provide a short and powerful description of this event.

“Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”(Luke 3: 21-22 NASB)

People were being baptized. John the Baptist was a faithful witness and boldly declared God’s truth without favor or fear. John’s water baptism was one of repentance of sin in preparation for the Christ who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. (v16) After baptizing many, Jesus came to be baptized.

Jesus was baptized by John. When Jesus first came to John to be baptized, John tried to prevent Jesus from being baptized. John shared that Jesus should baptize him and not the reverse. Jesus stated that it was necessary that He be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus was not being baptized because He sinned, He was sinless, but rather that He was identifying with sinners. (Mt. 3:13-15) This baptism begins to draw John’s ministry to a close and is the prelude to Jesus’ ministry. Several events took place during and after the baptism.

Jesus prayed. Jesus prayed as He was being baptized. Luke alone records that Jesus prayed. Jesus kept constant communion with the Father. Luke throughout His letter to Theophilus will record the importance that Jesus placed on prayer.

Heaven opened. As Jesus prayed Heaven opened. The baptism of Jesus provided the perfect opportunity for God the Father to open Heaven to speak to man, His creation. Opening Heaven showed the greatness of God the Father toward God the Son through God the Holy Spirit. The Heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended.

The Holy Spirit descended. Luke describes the physical manifestation of the unseen Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit descended in a form like a dove. The Holy Spirit was visible and gently moved from Heaven to earth and resided upon and in Him, Jesus. Recalling John’s message, “... I baptize you with water He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (v16). To make it clear who Jesus was, the Father spoke from Heaven.

The Father declared. God the Father made clear the unique identity of who Jesus was: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”(v22b) Jesus is the Son of God, loved by God and pleasing to God. In these passages Luke shares the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Trinity revealed. God reveals the mystery of the Trinity through Luke’s account of the baptism of Jesus. Jesus, God the Son, is baptized. God the Holy Spirit descends like a dove. God the Father announces and bears witness to His Son. God’s love for you, His creation, is that;

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16)

For Your Consideration:

- Jesus the Son prayed and was in constant communion with God the Father. Are you in constant communion with God the Father through Jesus the Son in the Spirit (Holy Spirit)?
- Who is Jesus to you? Your Savior and Lord?
- Do you make decisions that please God?

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