



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jesus Praises John

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Jesus praises John the Baptist.

“When the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? “But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces! “But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. “This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’ “I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God’s justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.” (Luke 7:24-30 NASB)

John the Baptist was a great prophet. John understood his purpose as one who would be called by God, a voice in the wilderness, *“preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; (Luke 3:3)* and *“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 3:16-17)

John the Baptist was more than a great prophet. Jesus said that no one born of women was greater than John the Baptist. John was the greatest prophet likely because he participated and witnessed the Messiah that the other prophets only foretold. John was greater than all in the OT which would have included; Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, Barak, Sampson, David, Samuel and others.

Those greater than John. Jesus said that as great as John was, those who were the least in the kingdom of God were greater. Those on the other side of The Cross had and have the ability to see, understand and experience, the grace, mercy and the atoning completed work of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, God’s Son that John the Baptist appeared to have a shadow of view. John lived in the era of the promise of the Messiah and those that lived after The Cross live in the fulfillment of the Messiah.

For Your Consideration:

- What mysteries were revealed after John’s death?
- What did John know before The Cross? What did he expect?
- What do we know after The Cross? What can we expect?

BIBLE STUDIES

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