JESUS THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

John 1:19-28 (NKJV)

- ¹⁹ Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"
- ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."
- ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."
- ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"
- ²³ He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD," 'as the prophet Isaiah said."
- Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees.
- ²⁵ And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"
- ²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know.
- ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."
- ²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.
 - I. Witness # 1 John the Apostle!
 - a. Verses 1-18
 - II. Witness # 2 John the Baptist
 - a. Verses 19-28
 - III. The first witness could not be questioned, because his testimony came after the resurrection of Christ.
 - IV. We see the Second witness, because he was a forerunner was question extensively.
 - a. They sent a board of inquiry from Jerusalem.
 - b. They could not question his credentials, because they were a product of his birth.
 - i. Luke 1:5 (NKJV)
 - ⁵ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth.
 - c. The issues was the method and the message.
 - i. Matthew 3:1-12 (NKJV)
 - ¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea.
 - ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
 - ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'"
 - ⁴ And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.
 - ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him

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- ⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.
- ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,
- ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
- ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- ¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- ¹² His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
- d. John the Baptist was a man sent from God
 - i. **John 1:6 (NKJV)**
 - ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- e. John the Baptist was a man with a mission.
 - i. To bear witness.
 - ii. To cause men to believe.
 - 1. **John 1:7 (NKJV)**
 - ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
- f. John was a great man, but not the Light
 - i. John 1:8-9 (NKJV)
 - ⁸ He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
 - ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

NOTES
