

## Matthew 3 Bible Study

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **2** “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” **3** For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.’”

**Q1. Who was John the Baptist? How did he get his name? Why do you think he preached in the wilderness?**

**Q2. What does it mean to “repent”? With that answer in mind, what does verse 2 mean?** (*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*)

**Q3. What does verse 3 mean? What does it mean for John to “prepare the way of the Lord”, and “make His paths straight”?** (*For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.”*)

**4** Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

**Q4. Why would people from all over the region go out to John?**

**Q5. What is significant about the river Jordan?**

**7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. **9** And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. **10** Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**Q6. Why did John the Baptist react so strongly against the Pharisees & Sadducees?**

**Q7. What does verse 8 mean?** (*"Bear fruit in keeping with repentance."*)

**Q8. What does verse 9 mean?** (*“And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.”*)

**Q9. What is the warning that John is giving in verse 10?** (*“Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*)

**11** “I baptize you with water for 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 fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**Q10. According to verse 11, how is the baptism of John different from the baptism of Jesus Christ? What are some other differences between the two?** (*“I baptize you with water for 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.”*)

**Q11. Is every believer required to be baptised? Does it matter if you are baptised by full immersion or sprinkling? Can children be baptised?**

**13** Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

**Q12. Why was John hesitant to baptise Jesus? If Jesus was sinless, why did He need to be baptised?**

**Q13. What does verse 15 mean?** (*"But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented."*)

**Q14. What is significant about what we read in verse 16? Is the Holy Spirit a dove?** (*"And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him"*)

**Q15. What is significant about what we read in verse 17?** (*" and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*)