



John: the Forerunner of Christ

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- An itinerant preacher and chosen prophet spoken of in Christianity, Islam, Bahai, and Mandaeism, John the Baptist is found in the Jewish Antiquities by Flavius Josephus (book 18, chapter 5, 2)
- All four Gospel accounts record John the Baptist's ministry. In the Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), Jesus's baptism is depicted, while it is implied in John's Gospel account.

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- Mark 1:1-8
- Matt. 3:1-6
- Luke
 - Luke is the only writer who addresses John's infancy speaks of John as a relative of Jesus, teaching charity, baptizing tax-collectors, and advising soldiers.
 - Acts speaks of disciples of John becoming followers of Jesus - Acts 18:24 - 19:6
- John reports that Jesus' disciples were baptizing
 - John 3:22-30, 5:31-35

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- Christianity is a rational religion, and the faith is based on evidence. Jesus does not expect us to believe He is the Son of God on His testimony alone, but provides us with evidences
 - John 5:31-47
 - John the Baptist, the works of Jesus, the Father, the Scriptures

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- Testimony and evidence by the Law of Moses
 - Deut. 19:15 - “One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.”
 - John 8:17 - “It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.”

The Testimony Of John The Baptist

- John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus
 - Isa. 42:16 - “I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them.”
 - Isa. 40:3-5 - “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

The Testimony Of John The Baptist

- John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus
 - Matt. 3:3 - “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.”
 - Mal. 4:5-6 - “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

The Testimony Of John The Baptist

- John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus
 - Matt. 11:11-14 - “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.”

The Testimony Of John The Baptist

- John the Baptist was recognized by all as a prophet of God.
 - Matt. 21:25-26 - “The baptism of John--where was it from? From heaven or from men? And they reasoned among themselves, saying, If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.”
 - John 1:15-28

The Testimony Of John The Baptist

- John's testimony concerning Jesus:
- He was before John, an affirmation of Deity
 - John 1:15 - "John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"
 - Luke 1:67-80

The Testimony Of John The Baptist

- Grace and truth come through Jesus
 - John 1:17 - “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
- Jesus is the Lamb of God taking away the sins of the world
 - John 1:29 - “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
- Jesus is the Son of God
 - John 1:29-34

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- John the Baptist came to identify and announce the Messiah. In his own words: “I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” (John 1:31)
- Regardless of all of the importance the scriptures place on John the Baptist, and of being related to Jesus, and he himself being an inspired prophet of the change in covenant, John knew his place before the Christ.

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- Matt. 3:13-15 - “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me? 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he allowed Him.”