

John 1:19-51—Introducing the Messiah

Three Denials of John the Baptizer (verses 19-28)

1. John the Baptizer's fame has spread, so a delegation travels from Jerusalem to the Jordan River to look into his activities (and find out if he is the long awaited Messiah). John's first denial occurs when he tells them that he is not whom?
2. John next denies that he is Elijah (the Old Testament prophet who did not die but was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind).
 - a. Why would people be expecting Elijah to come again? See **Malachi 4:5-6**.
 - b. How is John's ministry related to Elijah? See **Luke 1:17**
3. Then John denies that he is "the Prophet". Who is this prophet and what is his role? See **Deuteronomy 18:15,18** (Moses is speaking here).

"[Jesus'] likeness to Moses would be centered on two concepts; he would only say the things God told him to say, like Moses had done, and he would be the "Sent One," deriving his authority solely from the One who sent him....the Baptist has no claim to this title, though he understands himself as having been sent from God as well." John makes numerous references in his Gospel to "the Sent One"—
Michael Card in John: The Gospel of Wisdom

4. If John the Baptizer is none of these, then who IS he and what did he urge people to do? Look at **Isaiah 40:3-4**.
5. There was a "rule" at the time that required disciples to perform everything that the teacher requested EXCEPT untying his sandal thongs (that task was reserved for slaves).
 - a. What attitude does John show in his statements in John 1:27 and **John 3:30**?
 - b. What story involving sandal thongs appears later in the Gospel of John—and only in this Gospel?

The Testimony of John the Baptizer (verses 29-34)

6. What does John testify about Jesus in verse 29?

7. Compare the significance of the following Old Testament references to the title that John gave to Jesus:
- Genesis 22:6-8**
 - Exodus 12: 3, 5-7, 23**
 - Isaiah 53:6-7**
8. Up until this point, John has known Jesus as his cousin. How does John now recognize Jesus as the Son of God (verse 33)?

John Introduces His Disciples to Jesus (verses 35-42)

9. What were Jesus' first words in the Gospel of John? How might you reply?
10. Andrew spent the day listening to Jesus and became convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. What was his evangelism strategy (see verses 41-42)?

John, more than any other Gospel writer, uses parenthetical asides (almost like whispering to the reader). "[He] provides a translation for his listeners...Often he is providing background information, the missing piece of the puzzle that he has come to recognize after having told the story a thousand times. Sometimes these whispered asides provide nothing more than eyewitness detail."—Michael Card

More Disciples are Introduced to Jesus (verses 43-51)

11. What do you find notable about the meeting between Jesus and Philip?
12. Nathaniel seems rather skeptical at first: "Can anything good come from [Nazareth]?" How does Philip respond to this resistance?

13. What word or expression do each of the following use when referring to Jesus?

- a. John the Baptizer (verses 35-36)
- b. Andrew (verse 41)
- c. Philip (verse 45)
- d. Nathaniel (verse 49)

14. In verse 51, Jesus makes reference to an event in Genesis 28: Jacob had a dream about a stairway reaching to heaven with the angels of God ascending and descending on it. Then Jesus compared Himself to this stairway. What conclusions can you reach about this in light of the following verses? See **John 3:13-15, John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5**.

Jesus' display of divine power (recognizing Nathaniel before He meets him) is just the beginning of Jesus' heaven-sent ministry. "Heaven opened in Jacob's dream at Bethel and also at Jesus' Baptism. God has revealed and continues to reveal the way to Himself through Jesus, the Word made flesh"—ESV Study Bible

Resources:

- NIV and ESV Study Bibles
- LifeLight Leaders Guide and Study Guide
- John: The Gospel of Wisdom—by Michael Card

Malachi 4:5-6 ⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Luke 1:17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 ¹⁵ "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.... ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Isaiah 40:3-4 ³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

Genesis 22:6-8 ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

Exodus 12: 3, 5-7, 23 ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household... ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. ⁷ "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it... ²³ For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

Isaiah 53:6-7 ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

John 3:13-15 ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,