

# John 1:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

## Analysis

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John's repeated 'I knew him not' emphasizes that his witness came through divine revelation, not natural acquaintance (though they were relatives). His baptismal ministry served the singular purpose of manifesting Christ to Israel. This illustrates the Reformed principle that all means of grace exist to reveal Christ and draw His people to Him.

## Historical Context

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Though Mary and Elizabeth were relatives (Luke 1:36), Jesus and John apparently had little contact before Jesus' baptism. John's ministry began around 26-27 AD, preparing Israel for Christ's public revelation.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How do our ministries and gifts serve the ultimate purpose of revealing Christ to others?
2. What does it mean for Christ to be 'manifested' rather than merely introduced or presented?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ γὰρ	οὐκ	ᾔδειν	αὐτόν	ἀλλ'	ἵνα	φανερωθῇ	τῷ
And I	not	knew	him	but	that	he should be made manifest	G3588
G2504	G3756	G1492	G846	G235	G2443	G5319	
Ἰσραὴλ	διὰ	τοῦτο	ἦλθον	ἐγὼ	ἐν	τῷ	ὕδατι
to Israel	therefore	G5124	am	I	with	G3588	water
G2474	G1223		G2064	G1473	G1722		G5204
βαπτίζων							
baptizing							
G907							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Malachi 3:1** (Parallel theme): Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Luke 1:17** (Parallel theme): And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

**Acts 19:4** (Parallel theme): Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 3:6** (Parallel theme): And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

**John 1:33** (Parallel theme): And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

**John 1:7** (Parallel theme): The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

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