

John 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

Analysis

John the Baptist is introduced with deliberate contrast to the Logos. The verb 'egeneto' (came into being, was sent) differs from the Logos' 'en' (was)—John came into existence at a point in time; the Logos eternally exists. The phrase 'sent from God' (apestalmenos para theou) establishes John as a commissioned messenger, a prophet with divine authority but subordinate to the one he announces. His name 'Ioannes' (Hebrew Yochanan, meaning 'Yahweh is gracious') prophetically speaks to his role announcing God's grace in Christ.

Historical Context

John the Baptist was a transitional figure, the last Old Testament prophet and forerunner of the New Covenant. His birth was miraculous (Luke 1:5-25), his ministry powerful, attracting crowds from all Judea. Josephus confirms John's historical significance, recording his execution by Herod Antipas. John bridges the Testaments—prophetically announcing what the Logos would accomplish.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does John's role as witness and forerunner model faithful Christian testimony?
2. What is the significance of being 'sent from God' for understanding prophetic authority?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ θεοῦ ὄνομα αὐτῷ

There was	a man	sent	from	God	name	whose
G1096	G444	G649	G3844	G2316	G3686	G846

Ἰωάννης·

was John

G2491

Additional Cross-References

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.

John 3:28 (Parallel theme): Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

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.

Luke 1:76 (Parallel theme): And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

Acts 13:24 (References John): When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Matthew 11:10 (Parallel theme): For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Luke 1:13 (References John): But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

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