

John 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

Analysis

John's concurrent ministry at Aenon demonstrates that God's work through different servants can overlap without competition. The detail 'much water' (Greek: *hydata polla*) indicates John's baptismal practice required immersion. The Reformed tradition sees baptism's mode as significant but subordinate to its spiritual reality of union with Christ.

Historical Context

Aenon near Salim was likely in Samaria, west of the Jordan. John's ministry there (c. 27-28 AD) overlapped with Jesus' early Judean ministry, creating the situation that prompts discussion about purification and authority.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How should we respond when God appears to be blessing multiple ministries simultaneously?

2. What does John's continued baptizing even after Jesus' ministry began teach about faithful completion of our calling?

Interlinear Text

ἦν	δὲ	καὶ	Ἰωάννης	ἐβαπτίζοντο·	ἐν	Αἰνῶν	ἐγγὺς
there was	And	also	John	baptizing	in	Aenon	near
G2258	G1161	G2532	G2491	G907	G1722	G137	G1451
τοῦ	Σαλείμ	ὅτι	ὕδατα	πολλὰ	ἦν	ἐκεῖ	καὶ
G3588	to Salim	because	water	much	there was	there	also
	G4530	G3754	G5204	G4183	G2258	G1563	G2532
παρεγίνοντο	καὶ	ἐβαπτίζοντο·					
they came	also	baptizing					
G3854	G2532	G907					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 3:7 (Baptism): Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?