

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 Αἰνὼν 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?

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