

Luke 3

Chapter 3 of 24 · 38 Verses · Authorized King James Version

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

² Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

³ And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

⁶ And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

⁷ 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?

⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

⁹ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

John Announces the Coming One

15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

18 And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

19 But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

20 Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

The Baptism of Jesus

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

The Genealogy of Jesus

23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

24 Which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi, which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Janna, which was the son of Joseph,

25 Which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Amos, which was the son of Naum, which was the son of Esli, which was the son of Nagge,

26 Which was the son of Maath, which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Semei, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Juda,

27 Which was the son of Joanna, which was the son of Rhesa, which was the son of Zorobabel, which was the son of Salathiel, which was the son of Neri,

28 Which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Addi, which was the son of Cosam, which was the son of Elmodam, which was the son of Er,

29 Which was the son of Jose, which was the son of Eliezer, which was the son of Jorim, which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi,

30 Which was the son of Simeon, which was the son of Juda, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Jonan, which was the son of Eliakim,

31 Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan, which was the son of Mattatha, which was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David,

32 Which was the son of Jesse, which was the son of Obed, which was the son of Booz, which was the son of Salmon, which was the son of Naasson,

33 Which was the son of Aminadab, which was the son of Aram, which was the son of Esrom, which was the son of Phares, which was the son of Juda,

34 Which was the son of Jacob, which was the son of Isaac, which was the son of Abraham, which was the son of Thara, which was the son of Nachor,

35 Which was the son of Saruch, which was the son of Ragau, which was the son of Phalec, which was the son of Heber, which was the son of Sala,

36 Which was the son of Cainan, which was the son of Arphaxad, which was the son of Sem, which was the son of Noe, which was the son of Lamech,

37 Which was the son of Mathusala, which was the son of Enoch, which was the son of Jared, which was the son of Maleleel, which was the son of Cainan,

38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Baptize — βαπτίζω (Baptizo)

To baptize, immerse

The Greek **baptizo** (βαπτίζω) means to dip, immerse, or baptize. Christian baptism symbolizes identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Heaven — οὐρανός (Ouranos)

Heaven, sky

The Greek **ouranos** (οὐρανός) denotes heaven—God's throne and the believer's eternal home. Jesus taught His disciples to pray 'Our Father which art in heaven' (Matthew 6:9) and promised to prepare a place there (John 14:2).

Holy — ἅγιος (Hagios)

Holy, sacred, set apart

The Greek **hagios** (ἅγιος) denotes holiness—moral purity and separation unto God. Believers are called 'saints' (hagioi), those set apart for God through Christ's sanctifying work.

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Prophet — προφήτης (Prophētēs)

Prophet

The Greek **prophētēs** (προφήτης) denotes a prophet—one who speaks forth God's message. Jesus was recognized as 'a prophet mighty in deed and word' (Luke 24:19), fulfilling and surpassing the prophetic office.

Repent — μετανοέω (Metanoeō)

To change one's mind, repent

The Greek **metanoeō** (μετανοέω) means to change one's mind or purpose—a complete transformation of thinking. John the Baptist and Jesus both began their ministries with 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2; 4:17).

Salvation — σωτηρία (Soteria)

Salvation, deliverance

The Greek **soteria** (σωτηρία) denotes salvation, deliverance, or preservation—rescue from sin's penalty and power. It encompasses justification, sanctification, and glorification.

Sin — ἁμαρτία (Hamartia)

Sin, missing the mark

The Greek **hamartia** (ἁμαρτία) means sin—missing the target of God's perfection. 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23), requiring Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

Wrath — ὀργή (Orgē)

Wrath, anger

The Greek **orgē** (ὀργή) means wrath—settled, righteous anger against sin. Believers are 'saved from wrath through him' (Romans 5:9), as Christ bore God's wrath on the cross, satisfying divine justice.

CROSS REFERENCES**Luke 3:1**

Parallel theme: Luke 2:1; Genesis 49:10; Matthew 14:1; 14:3; 27:2; Mark 6:17; Acts 4:27; 23:26; 24:27. **Kingdom:** Acts 26:30

Luke 3:2 **References John:** Matthew 11:7; Acts 4:6. **Parallel theme:** Luke 1:80; Matthew 26:3; John 1:23; 18:24. **Word:** Jonah 1:1; Micah 1:1; Zephaniah 1:1. **References God:** Isaiah 40:3

Luke 3:3 Sin: Luke 1:77

Luke 3:4

Prophecy: Matthew 3:3; John 1:23. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 62:10; Malachi 4:6; John 1:7.

References Lord: Mark 1:3

Luke 3:5 **Creation:** Isaiah 40:4; Ezekiel 17:24. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 42:16; 45:2; 49:11; James 1:9

Luke 3:6 **Salvation:** Isaiah 49:6; 52:10. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 40:5; Romans 10:12; 10:18

Luke 3:7 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 59:5; Matthew 12:34; 23:33; John 8:44; Acts 13:10; Hebrews 6:18; 1 John 3:8. **Judgment:** 1 Thessalonians 1:10

Luke 3:8

Repentance: Acts 26:20. **References God:** Matthew 21:43. **References Abraham:** John 8:33; Romans 4:16; 9:7. **Parallel theme:** Luke 19:40. **Resurrection:** Philippians 1:11

Luke 3:9 **Good:** Matthew 3:10; 7:19. **Parallel theme:** Luke 13:7; 13:9; Ezekiel 31:18; Daniel 4:14; 4:23; John 15:6; Hebrews 12:29

Luke 3:10 **Parallel theme:** Luke 3:8; 3:14; Acts 2:37; 16:30

Luke 3:11 **Parallel theme:** Luke 11:41; 18:22; Daniel 4:27; Matthew 25:40; 1 Timothy 6:18; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17; 4:20

Luke 3:12 **Baptism:** Luke 7:29

Luke 3:13

Parallel theme: Luke 19:8; Micah 6:8; Matthew 7:12; 1 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 4:28

Luke 3:14 **Parallel theme:** Luke 19:8; Exodus 20:16; 23:1; Leviticus 19:11; Philippians 4:11

Luke 3:15 **References Christ:** John 10:24

Luke 3:16

Holy: Matthew 3:11; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; 2:33. **Baptism:** John 1:26. **Spirit:** Proverbs 1:23; Isaiah 4:4; 32:15; 1 Corinthians 12:13. **Parallel theme:** Zechariah 13:9

Luke 3:17 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 1:4; Isaiah 30:24; Jeremiah 15:7; Micah 4:12; Matthew 3:12; 13:30

Luke 3:18 **Parallel theme:** Acts 2:40

Luke 3:19 **Parallel theme:** Luke 3:1

Luke 3:22

Parallel theme: Luke 4:21; Psalms 2:7; Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:4. **Love:** Matthew 3:17; 12:18; 17:5. **Spirit:** Isaiah 42:1; John 1:32. **Holy:** Acts 10:38

Luke 3:23

Parallel theme: Luke 4:22; Genesis 41:46; Numbers 4:3; Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3. **References Jesus:** Matthew 1:16; 4:17; John 6:42; Acts 1:1

Luke 3:27 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 1:12

Luke 3:31 **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 5:14; 1 Chronicles 3:5; 14:4. **References David:** Zechariah 12:12

Luke 3:34 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 25:26. **References Abraham:** Genesis 21:3

Luke 3:38 **References God:** Genesis 2:7. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 64:8; 1 Corinthians 15:45; 15:47

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