

Matthew 3

Chapter 3 of 28 · 17 Verses · Authorized King James Version

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

- ¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
- ² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- ³ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- ⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.
- ⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,
- ⁶ And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.
- ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- ⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:
- ⁹ And think 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.
- ¹⁰ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
- ¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

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

The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

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).

Righteous — δίκαιος (Dikaios)

Righteous, just

The Greek **dikaios** (δίκαιος) means righteous or just—conforming to God's standard. Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers through faith (Romans 4:5), making them legally righteous before God.

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.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

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

Matthew 3:1 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 3:8; Mark 1:15; Luke 1:76. **References John:**

Matthew 11:7; 11:11; 16:14; Luke 7:24; Acts 1:22

Matthew 3:2

Kingdom: Matthew 4:17; 6:10; 10:7; Daniel 2:44; Mark 1:15. **Repentance:** Luke 13:3; 15:10; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 2 Corinthians 7:10

Matthew 3:3 **References Lord:** Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:3; Luke 1:17. **Prophecy:** Luke 1:76; John 1:23

Matthew 3:4 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 11:8; Leviticus 11:22; 2 Kings 1:8; Zechariah 13:4; Malachi 4:5; Luke 1:17. **References John:** Mark 1:6

Matthew 3:5

References Jerusalem: Mark 1:5. **Parallel theme:** Luke 3:7; 16:16; John 3:23; 5:35

Matthew 3:6

Parallel theme: Acts 19:18; Hebrews 9:10. **Sin:** 1 John 1:9. **Baptism:** Matthew 3:11

Matthew 3:7 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 12:34; 23:33; Jeremiah 6:10; 51:6; 1 John 3:10. **Judgment:** Romans 1:18; 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10. **Resurrection:** Matthew 16:6; 22:23

Matthew 3:8 **Repentance:** Matthew 21:32; Jeremiah 26:13; Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 36:3; Ephesians 5:9; Philippians 1:11

Matthew 3:9

Resurrection: Luke 3:8. **References Abraham:** Ezekiel 33:24; Luke 16:24; John 8:33; 8:53; Romans 4:1. **References God:** Acts 13:26; 15:14. **Parallel theme:** Mark 7:21; Luke 5:22

Matthew 3:10

Parallel theme: Matthew 21:19; Psalms 1:3; Jeremiah 17:8; Malachi 4:1; Luke 23:31; John 15:2; 15:6; Hebrews 6:8. **Good:** Matthew 7:19; Luke 3:9

Matthew 3:11 **Spirit:** Isaiah 4:4; Luke 1:17; 1 Corinthians 12:13. **Holy:** Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5; Titus 3:5. **Parallel theme:** Zechariah 13:9. **Baptism:** Matthew 3:6. **Repentance:** Mark 1:4; Acts 19:4

Matthew 3:12 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 13:30; 13:41; Psalms 1:4; Isaiah 41:16; Jeremiah 7:20; 15:7; 51:2; Malachi 4:1; Luke 3:17; John 15:2

Matthew 3:13 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 2:22

Matthew 3:14

Parallel theme: Luke 1:43; John 1:16; Romans 3:23; 3:25; Galatians 3:22; 4:6

Matthew 3:15

References Jesus: John 4:34. **Righteousness:** Isaiah 42:21; Luke 1:6. **Parallel theme:** John 8:29; 13:15; 15:10; Hebrews 7:26; 1 John 2:6

Matthew 3:16

Spirit: Isaiah 11:2; 42:1; 59:21; 61:1; Mark 1:10; John 3:34. **References God:** Ezekiel 1:1; Acts 7:56

Matthew 3:17 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 2:7; Isaiah 42:1; Colossians 1:13. **Love:** Matthew 12:18; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 9:35; 2 Peter 1:17

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