

Matthew 3:3-12
“The ministry of John the Baptist”

John’s appearance: 3:4

“Camel . . . leather”: 2 Kings 1:8: Elijah described in like manner
Mal. 4:5: Elijah will be the forerunner to the
Messiah

John’s diet: 3:4

“Locusts”: Image of judgment: Ex. 10:12-20
“Honey”: Image of blessing: Ex. 3:8; Num. 14:8

John’s “parallel”:

Matt. 17:11-13: JTB was “Elijah” but rejected like Christ

John’s Baptism

Characteristics Matthew 3:6-11

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| 1. Was a baptism for an audience of Jews: | Matt. 3:7-9 |
| 2. Was “simultaneous” with confession of sin: | Matt. 3:6 |
| 3. Had “physical evidence” that qualified as repentance: | Matt. 3:8 |
| 4. Is defined by JTB as DIFFERENT than Jesus’ baptism: | Matt. 3:11 |

“Continuation” Acts 2:38

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| 1. Was a baptism of Jewish individuals: | Acts 2:5 |
| 2. Was “simultaneous” with confession of sin:
“Repent and be” | Acts 2:38, |
| 3. Had physical evidence (No longer identify with temple):
“Remission of” | Acts 2:38, |
| 4. Is defined by Paul as DIFFERENT than his baptism: | Eph. 4:5 |

Clarification

1. Matt. 28:19-20 does not “match” Matt. 3:6-8 or Acts 2:38: “To the nations”
2. Acts 10:44-48 does not “match Matt. 3:6-8 or Acts 2:38: “The gentiles”
3. The baptism of John does not “match” any of the language of the Pauline Epistles
4. In fact, “baptism” is not a “featured doctrine” of the Pauline Epistles

Considerations

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| 1. The first “baptism” does not include water: | 1 Cor. 10:1-4 |
| 2. Jesus’ “baptism” does not include water:
(HS and Fire) | Matt. 3:11 |

3. Another “baptism” of Jesus does not include water: Matt.
20:22-23 (Suffering)
4. The NT Christian’s “baptism” does not include water: Rom. 6:1-3
5. “Baptism” though important is not of “eternal worth”: 1 Cor. 1:17
6. None of the above “baptisms” mention or infer the “repentance for the remission of sin”