

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS
COME, WEEK 17

TITLE: THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

TEXT: LUKE 3:21&22

INTRODUCTION: (1) HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED
WHY JESUS WOULD BE BAPTIZED?

* WHY GOD THE SON WHO WAS SINLESS, PURE
AND HOLY WOULD WANT TO BE BAPTIZED WITH
A BAPTISM THAT SIGNIFIED CONFESSION OF SIN
AND REPENTANCE, **JOHN'S BAPTISM?**

** FOR **JOHN'S BAPTISM WAS FOR THOSE WHO**
TURNED FROM SIN AND THEREBY BECAME FIT
FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH - JESUS
CHRIST.

*** SO WHY THEN, WOULD THE SINLESS SON OF
GOD HIMSELF WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

****** WELL, THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, ONE THAT**
I HAVE PONDERED AND ONE WITH MANY
ANSWERS BY BIBLE STUDENTS. LET ME GIVE
YOU A FEW.

(2) SOME INTERPRETERS SUGGEST THAT JESUS
INTENDED HIS BAPTISM TO BE A SORT OF
INITIATORY RITE FOR HIS HIGH PRIESTHOOD,
REFLECTING THE CEREMONY WHICH PREPARED
O.T. PRIESTS FOR THEIR MINISTRY, WHICH WAS
WASHING AND ANOINTING.

*** AND CHRIST'S BAPTISM REPRESENTED HIS**
SYMBOLIC WASHING TO BE OUR HIGH PRIEST
AND THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT UPON HIM
REPRESENTED HIS ANOINTING AS A PRIEST.

**** AS A RESULT, JESUS WAS DIVINELY**
CONSECRATED FOR THE WORK OF REDEMPTION
AS WELL AS THAT OF KING AND PROPHET. (AND
THAT ANSWER HAS MERIT).

*** YET OTHERS SUGGEST THAT JESUS WAS BAPTIZED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH THE GENTILES, WHO WERE INITIATED INTO JUDAISM AS PROSELYTES BY THE ACT OF BAPTISM. AND CHRIST CAME TO SAVE GENTILES.

(3) STILL OTHERS TAKE JESUS' BAPTISM TO BE HIS RECOGNITION AND ENDORSEMENT OF JOHN'S AUTHORITY, HIS ACCREDITING OF JOHN AS A TRUE PROPHET OF GOD AND THE GENUINE FORERUNNER OF HIS OWN MINISTRY, TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR JOHN'S MINISTRY.

* ANOTHER VIEW IS JESUS WAS BAPTIZED TO GIVE US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW, THAT CHRIST MODELED WHAT HE WANTED OTHERS TO DO.

** AND YET STILL OTHERS BELIEVE THAT JESUS WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN TO IDENTIFY WITH THE PENITENT PEOPLE OF GOD, TO IDENTIFY WITH HUMANNES AND SIN ALTHOUGH JESUS NEVER SINNED.

*** AND ALL OF THESE REASONS ARE GOOD POSSIBILITIES OF WHY JESUS WAS BAPTIZED. AND TODAY IN OUR STUDY OF LUKE 3:21&22 **WE'LL CONSIDER IN GREATER DETAIL WHY OUR SAVIOR WAS BAPTIZED, IN ADDITION TO THESE.**

**** **BUT ALSO IN OUR STUDY TODAY WE'LL** BRIEFLY SEE THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY, AS ALL 3 PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD ARE INVOLVED IN THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

(4) AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE SIMPLY TITLED OUR MESSAGE THIS MORNING, THE BAPTISM OF JESUS AS WE SEE ALL 3 MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD INVOLVED IN THE EVENT.

*** AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 3** POINTS AS WE SEE THE TRINITY REVEALED AND WHY JESUS WOULD BE BAPTIZED.

** NO. 1 THE CONDESCENSION OF THE SON TO BE BAPTIZED BY JOHN, V. 21; NO. 2 THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT UPON CHRIST AS A DOVE, V. 22A; AND NO. 3 THE CONFIRMATION OF THE FATHER FROM HEAVEN ABOUT THE SON, V. 22B.

*** AND WITH THAT OUTLINE BEFORE US, LOOK AT V. 21 PLEASE WHERE **WE'LL START TO SEE** OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE CONDESCENSION OF THE SON.

I. THE CONDESCENSION OF THE SON, (READ V. 21)

A. NOW TO HELP US UNDERSTAND V. 21 AND THE REST OF OUR TEXT TODAY, I WANT TO LOOK AT THE TWO OTHER PARALLEL ACCOUNTS OF THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW AND MARK.

* AND BOTH OF THESE ACCOUNTS WILL SHED SOME ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON OUR STUDY TODAY. **AND FIRST OF ALL, WE'LL LOOK AT MARK 1:9-11, WHERE WE'LL SEE MARK'S** ACCOUNT OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

**** MARK 1:9-11: "AND IT CAME** ABOUT IN THOSE DAYS THAT JESUS CAME FROM NAZARETH IN GALILEE, AND WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN IN THE JORDAN. AND IMMEDIATELY COMING UP OUT OF THE WATER, HE SAW THE HEAVENS OPENING, AND THE SPIRIT LIKE A DOVE DESCENDING UPON HIM; AND A VOICE CAME OUT OF THE HEAVENS: **"THOU ART MY BELOVED SON, IN THEE I AM WELL PLEASED."**

******* NOW NEXT **WE'LL LOOK AT MATTHEW'S** ACCOUNT OF THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST, MATTHEW 3:13-17.

**** MATTHEW 3:13-17: THEN JESUS ARRIVED FROM GALILEE AT THE JORDAN COMING TO JOHN, TO BE BAPTIZED BY HIM. BUT JOHN TRIED **TO PREVENT HIM, SAYING, "I HAVE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU, AND DO YOU COME TO ME?"** BUT JESUS ANSWERING SAID TO HIM, **"PERMIT IT AT THIS TIME; FOR IN THIS WAY IT IS FITTING FOR US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS."** THEN HE *PERMITTED HIM. AFTER BEING BAPTIZED, JESUS CAME UP IMMEDIATELY FROM THE WATER; AND BEHOLD, THE HEAVENS WERE OPENED, AND HE SAW THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDING AS A DOVE AND LIGHTING ON HIM, AND BEHOLD, A VOICE OUT OF THE HEAVENS **SAID, "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL-PLEASSED."**

1. NOW AS WE PUT THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS TOGETHER THE PICTURE BECOMES CLEARER. MATTHEW STATES THAT JESUS ARRIVED FROM GALILEE AND MARK STATES SPECIFICALLY WHAT CITY IN GALILEE, NAZARETH WHERE JESUS WAS RAISED FOR 30 YEARS.

* LUKE THEN ADDS IN OUR TEXT THAT JESUS CAME WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED. SO JESUS COMES AS OTHERS ARE BEING BAPTIZED BY JOHN. JOHN IS NOT ALONE, OTHERS ARE THERE TO WITNESS THIS EVENT ALTHOUGH JESUS CAME ALONE, NO FAMILY MEMBERS OR FRIENDS ACCOMPANIED HIM, AND HE HAD YET CALLED NO DISCIPLES.

** SO JESUS COMES TO THE JORDAN RIVER WHERE JOHN IS AT FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE TO BE BAPTIZED BY JOHN.

*** **AND HERE WE HAVE RECORDED CHRIST'S** FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE HE WAS 12 YEARS OLD WHEN HE WENT UP TO THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM RECORDED IN LUKE 2:41-50.

**** FOR 18 YEARS NOTHING IS RECORDED ABOUT **OUR SAVIOR, HE'S LIVING AT NAZARETH** AS A CARPENTER INCREASING IN WISDOM AND STATURE, AND IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN ACCORDING TO LUKE 2:52.

2. SO JESUS MAKES HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE HERE IN LUKE 3:21 AND COMES TO JOHN TO BE BAPTIZED BY HIM. NOW IN MATTHEW 3:14 WE SEE **JOHN'S RESPONSE TO JESUS.**

* MATTHEW 3:14 - BUT JOHN TRIED TO PREVENT **HIM, SAYING, "I HAVE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU, AND DO YOU COME TO ME?"**

** NOW JOHN DID NOT WANT TO BAPTIZE JESUS AND IN FACT HIS RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST **FOR BAPTISM WAS "I HAVE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU."**

*** **THE IDEA OF JESUS' BEING BAPTIZED BY HIM** WAS UNTHINKABLE TO JOHN. HE NOT ONLY **KNEW JESUS' HUMAN IDENTITY BUT HIS DIVINE IDENTITY.**

**** YOU SAY RAY HOW DO WE KNOW THAT? WELL, TWO THINGS. NO 1, **BY JOHN'S RESPONSE HERE BUT ALSO BY JOHN'S RESPONSE WHEN HE WAS BAPTIZING PEOPLE IN THE JORDAN IN JOHN 1.**

3. AND IN THAT TEXT JOHN SEES JESUS COMING TO HIM AND SAYS IN JOHN 1:29, QUOTE IT.

* NOW JOHN HAD PROBABLY NOT SEEN JESUS SINCE THEY WERE CHILDREN FOR THEY WERE COUSINS, BUT JESUS LIVED IN NAZARETH IN GALILEE BASICALLY ALL HIS LIFE, AND JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDEA.

** AND JOHN DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM PHYSICALLY ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:31 AND 1:33, BUT HE RECOGNIZED HIM SPIRITUALLY, OBVIOUSLY THE LORD WAS REVEALED TO HIM TO MAKE THE GREAT STATEMENT HE MADE IN JOHN 1:29.

*** AND JESUS WOULD BE THE SPOTLESS, PURE LAMB THAT WOULD DIE, HE WOULD BE THE FINAL LAMB AND NO MORE BLOOD OF ANIMALS WOULD HAVE TO BE SPILLED BECAUSE THE FINAL LAMB HAD COME, I PETER 1:18&19, ISAIAH 53:7. HE WAS OPPRESSED AND HE WAS

AFFLICTED.

**** NOW JOHN RECOGNIZED THIS, THAT HE WAS THE LAMB, BY THE REVELATION OF GOD AND IT WOULD BE CONFIRMED TO JOHN AS THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD DESCEND UPON CHRIST AT HIS BAPTISM, JOHN 1:33.

4. NOW MY POINT IS JOHN KNEW WHO JESUS WAS, HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF WHO THE PERSON WAS WHO HAD COME TO BE BAPTIZED **BY HIM. AND THAT'S WHY JOHN RESPONDS THE WAY HE DOES HERE, I HAVE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU, SO JOHN TRIES TO PREVENT HIM, TO DETER HIM, JESUS, I CAN'T BAPTIZE YOU, I'M NOT WORTHY AND YOU DON'T NEED TO BE BAPTIZED.**

* AND THE IMPERFECT TENSE OF THE GREEK VERBS SUGGESTS A CONTINUED EFFORT BY JOHN. HE KEPT TRYING TO PREVENT HIM.

** AND BELOVED, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO **UNDERSTAND JOHN'S CONCERN. HIS BAPTISM WAS FOR CONFESSION OF SIN AND**

REPENTANCE, OF WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD NEED.

*** BUT JESUS HAD NO SINS TO CONFESS OR BE FORGIVEN OF. AND UNDERSTAND THIS, FOR THIS IS A WONDERFUL TRUTH.

**** **JOHN'S ATTEMPT TO PREVENT JESUS FROM BEING BAPTIZED IS A WONDERFUL TESTIMONY TO JESUS' SINLESSNESS.**

5. I MEAN THE PROPHET OF WHOM THE LORD **HIMSELF SAID THERE HAD "NOT ARISEN ANYONE GREATER."** MATT. 11:11, KNEW THAT HE HIMSELF WAS NOT SINLESS.

* AGAIN JOHN SAID, I HAVE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU AND DO YOU COME TO ME!!

** **JOHN WAS SAYING, "I AM ONLY A PROPHET OF GOD, I AM SINFUL LIKE EVERYONE WHOM I BAPTIZE. BUT YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD AND SINLESS. YOU ARE NOT A SINNER!**

6. IN FACT, JOHN RESISTED BAPTIZING JESUS FOR EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE REASON THAT HE RESISTED BAPTIZING THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES.

* THEY WERE IN GREAT NEED OF REPENTANCE BUT WERE UNWILLING TO ASK FOR IT AND GAVE NO EVIDENCE OF HAVING IT.

** BUT JESUS BY CONTRAST, CAME FOR BAPTISM, THOUGH HE ALONE OF ALL MANKIND HAD NO NEED OF REPENTANCE.

*** JOHN REFUSED TO BAPTIZE THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES BECAUSE THEY WERE TOTALLY UNWORTHY OF IT. AND NOW HE WAS ALMOST EQUALLY RELUCTANT TO BAPTIZE JESUS, BECAUSE HE WAS TOO WORTHY FOR IT.

**** **SO AGAIN, JOHN'S ATTEMPT TO PREVENT JESUS FROM BEING BAPTIZED IS A GREAT TESTIMONY TO JESUS' SINLESSNESS.**

7. AND THAT IS A VITAL TRUTH IN CHRISTIANITY. THAT JESUS WAS SINLESS AS THE GOD MAN. FOR IF HE HAD SINNED ONCE AS SOME HERETICS SUGGEST THAT HE DID, HE COULD NOT HAVE PURCHASED OUR SALVATION.

* IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE SINNER DYING FOR **OTHER SINNERS AND THAT DOESN'T** ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

**** AND WE NEED TO COMMUNICATE CHRIST'S** SINLESSNESS IN COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL, THAT OUR SAVIOR WAS DIVINE, SO SINLESS, AND YET HUMAN IN IDENTIFYING WITH MANKIND AND OUR TEMPTATION AND OUR HUMANNES.

*** BUT HE NEVER ONCE SINNED. AND MANY OTHER N.T. PASSAGES COMMUNICATE THIS AND AFFIRM IT, II CORINTHIANS 5:21, HEBREWS 4:15, AND I PETER 2:22. (QUOTE THEM).

****** THEN I JOHN 3:5 SAYS: "AND YOU KNOW THAT HE APPEARED IN ORDER TO TAKE AWAY SINS; AND IN HIM THERE IS NO SIN."**

8. SO CHRIST WAS THE SINLESS, SPOTLESS, **PURE, HOLY LAMB OF GOD, AND THAT'S WHY** JOHN RESISTED THE THOUGHT OF BAPTIZING JESUS.

*** NOW WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO MATTHEW'S** GOSPEL AGAIN TO SEE EXACTLY WHY JESUS WOULD BE BAPTIZED IN HIS CONDESCENSION AS GOD THE SON, WHICH IS THE QUESTION I ASKED IN MY INTRODUCTION TODAY, WHY WOULD JESUS BE BAPTIZED? WELL THE ANSWER IS GIVEN IN MATTHEW 3:15 WHICH SAYS:

**** MATTHEW 3:15 - BUT JESUS ANSWERING SAID TO HIM, "PERMIT IT AT THIS TIME; FOR IN THIS WAY IT IS FITTING FOR US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS."** THEN HE PERMITTED HIM.

*** NOW V. 15 GIVES US THE REASON WHY JESUS WANTED TO BE BAPTIZED. AND THESE ARE HIS FIRST RECORDED WORDS SINCE THE AGE OF 12, WHEN HE TOLD HIS PARENTS IN **LUKE 2:49, "DID YOU NOT KNOW THAT I HAD TO BE IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE?"**

**** SO HERE WE HAVE THE FIRST RECORDED **WORDS OF JESUS IN ABOUT 18 YEARS, "JOHN, PERMIT ME TO BE BAPTIZED AT THIS TIME, FOR IN THIS WAY IT IS FITTING FOR US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS."**

**** **NOW UNDERSTAND THAT IN JESUS' RESPONSE TO JOHN THAT HE DID NOT DENY THAT HE WAS SPIRITUALLY SUPERIOR TO JOHN OR THAT HE WAS SINLESS.**

***** **FOR THE WORDS "PERMIT IT AT THIS TIME"** WAS AN IDIOM, AN EXPRESSION MEANING THAT THE ACT OF BAPTISM, THOUGH NOT SEEMINGLY APPROPRIATE, WAS INDEED APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SPECIAL TIME, IN HIS CONDESCENSION.

- IN OTHER **WORDS, JESUS UNDERSTOOD JOHN'S** RELUCTANCE AND KNEW THAT IT CAME FROM DEEP SINCERITY AND HUMILITY, JOHN HAD PROPER PERSPECTIVE. AS WE SAW LAST SUNDAY WHEN JOHN SAID, I AM NOT FIT TO REMOVE HIS SANDALS - LUKE 3:11. I AM NOT WORTHY TO BE HIS LOWEST SLAVE. ALSO JOHN 3:30.

9. BUT JESUS GAVE PERMISSION FOR JOHN TO DO THAT, WITHOUT DIVINE INSTRUCTION, JOHN WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DO IT.

* AND JESUS ASSURED JOHN THAT IN THIS WAY IT IS FITTING, AND WENT ON TO EXPLAIN TO JOHN THAT HIS BAPTISM WAS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH OF THEIR MINISTRIES, FOR US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**** TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, FOR GOD'S PLAN** TO BE PERFECTLY FULFILLED, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO BE BAPTIZED AND TO

BE BAPTIZED SPECIFICALLY BY JOHN.

*** NOW HOW WOULD JESUS AND JOHN FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS? WELL THE GREEK WORD FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS LIT. MEANS THE STATE OF HIM WHO IS AS HE OUGHT TO BE, THE CONDITION ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, THE WAY IN WHICH MAN MAY ATTAIN A STATE APPROVED OF GOD.

**** IT MEANS RIGHTNESS, CORRECTNESS. NOW FOR JESUS TO BE BAPTIZED BY JOHN WAS RIGHT AND CORRECT, IT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE **FATHER AS WE'LL SEE IN** LUKE 3:22, THIS **WOULD BRING GOD'S APPROVAL. IT WOULD** FULFILL THE RIGHTEOUS PURPOSE OF GOD, IT WOULD BE A PART OF FULFILLING, TO ACCOMPLISH, TO BRING TO PASS SOMETHING APPROVED BY GOD.

10. NOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT WAS THE REASON? WELL, IT APPEARS TO ME, THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL BEYOND THE ONES I MENTIONED IN MY INTRODUCTION THIS

MORNING, AND I'LL GIVE YOU 3.

* NO. 1 IT SEEMS THAT ONE REASON THAT JESUS SUBMITTED TO BAPTISM WAS TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE TO HIS FOLLOWERS. LET ME GIVE YOU A BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION OF THIS OF WHAT I MEAN.

** AS THE KING OF KINGS, JESUS RECOGNIZED THAT HE HAD NO ULTIMATE OBLIGATION TO PAY TAXES TO A HUMAN GOVT.

*** AND WHEN PETER ON ONE OCCASION ASKED ABOUT THE MATTER, JESUS REPLIED IN MATT. 17:25-**27**, "**WHAT DO YOU THINK SIMON? FROM WHOM DO THE KINGS OF THE EARTH COLLECT CUSTOMS OR POLL TAX, FROM THEIR SONS OR STRANGERS?"**

**** AND PETER SAID STRANGERS. WELL, JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, CONSEQUENTLY THE SONS ARE EXEMPT. BUT, LEST WE GIVE THEM OFFENSE, GIVE IT (A STATER COIN) TO THEM FOR YOU AND **ME."**

11. NOW AS SCRIPTURE MAKES CLEAR IN MANY PLACES, IT IS PROPER AND RIGHT FOR BELIEVERS, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE SONS OF GOD, TO HONOR AND PAY TAXES TO HUMAN GOVERNMENTS.

* WELL, IN EVERY CASE, JESUS MODELED OBEDIENCE. HE EVEN PAID TAXES. AND IN HIS **BAPTISM HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT JOHN'S** STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WAS VALID AND IN ACTION AFFIRMED IT AS THE WILL OF GOD TO WHICH MEN ARE SUBJECT. SO HE GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE TO HIS FOLLOWERS - **HE DIDN'T NEED TO DO IT** - HE WAS NOT OBLIGATED.

12. **NO. 2 CHRIST'S BAPTISM ALSO** REPRESENTED THE WILLING IDENTIFICATION OF THE SINLESS SON OF GOD WITH THE SINFUL PEOPLE HE CAME TO SAVE.

* FOR IN ESSENCE, HIS BAPTISM WAS HIS FIRST ACT OF HIS MINISTRY, THE FIRST STEP IN THE REDEMPTIVE PLAN THAT HE CAME TO FULFILL.

** HE WHO HAD NO SIN TOOK HIS PLACE AMONG THOSE WHO HAD NO RIGHTEOUSNESS. HE WHO WAS WITHOUT SIN SUBMITTED TO A BAPTISM FOR SINNERS.

*** THE SINLESS FRIEND OF SINNERS WAS SENT BY THE FATHER ACCORDING TO ROMANS **8:3**, **"IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH AND AS AN OFFERING FOR SIN, HE CONDEMNED SIN IN THE FLESH."**

**** **AND HE "MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN ON OUR BEHALF, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM"**
II CORINTHIANS 5:21, ISAIAH 53:11.

- AND THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS EXCEPT TO IDENTIFY WITH MEN AND THEIR SIN.

13. **AND THEN THIRDLY, JESUS' BAPTISM NOT ONLY WAS A SYMBOL OF HIS IDENTITY WITH SINNERS, BUT WAS ALSO A SYMBOL OF HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION, AND THEREFORE A PREFIGUREMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM.**

* FOR CHRISTIAN BAPTISM PICTURES DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES OUR SALVATION AND IDENTIFIES US PUBLICLY WITH CHRIST, ROMANS 6:4&5, OUTWARD PROFESSION.

** NOW WHEN IT COMES TO CHRIST AND BAPTISM, **IT'S INTERESTING THAT JESUS MADE ONLY TWO OTHER REFERENCES TO PERSONAL BAPTISM OUTSIDE OF THE GREAT COMMISSION. AND EACH RELATE TO HIS DEATH.**

*** IN LUKE 12:50, NOT LONG BEFORE HIS FINAL **TRIP TO JERUSALEM, HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES, "I HAVE A BAPTISM TO UNDERGO, AND HOW DISTRESSED I AM UNTIL IT IS ACCOMPLISHED,"** AND HE WAS TALKING ABOUT HIS DEATH.

**** THEN IN MARK 10:38 HE MAKES REFERENCE TO DRINKING THE CUP THAT HE WOULD DRINK AND BEING BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM IN WHICH HE WOULD BE BAPTIZED, TO WHICH AGAIN REFERRED TO HIS DEATH.

***** **AND BELOVED, CHRIST'S SUPREME IDENTIFICATION WITH SINNERS WAS HIS TAKING THEIR SIN UPON HIMSELF, DYING FOR SINNERS, WHICH HE DID AT CALVARY. BAPTISM AND DEATH GO HAND IN HAND IN ROMANS 6:4&5.**

- **SO POSSIBLY CHRIST'S BAPTISM POINTS TO DEATH AND WHAT WOULD FOLLOW.**

14. AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE POSSIBLE MEANINGS OF WHY CHRIST WAS BAPTIZED. AND THOUGH JOHN, HAVING BEEN GIVEN SUCH A BRIEF EXPLANATION, COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE COMPREHENDED THE FULL MEANING OF **JESUS' BAPTISM, HE ACCEPTED HIS LORD'S WORDS AND OBEYED, IT SAYS AT THE END OF MATTHEW 3:15, THEN HE PERMITTED HIM.**

* NOW WITH ALL OF THAT SAID, LOOK BACK AT LUKE 3:21 AND NOTICE WHAT LUKE SAYS.

** LUKE 3:21 - NOW WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED, JESUS WAS ALSO BAPTIZED, AND WHILE HE WAS PRAYING, HEAVEN WAS OPENED,

*** **NOW LUKE TELLS US THAT CHRIST'S BAPTISM WAS NOT A PRIVATE EVENT AS SOME IMAGINE, FOR WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED, JESUS WAS ALSO BAPTIZED.**

**** AND IN ESSENCE HIS THIRTY YEARS OF OBSCURITY WERE OVER AND HE IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY.

15. AND ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY THAT JESUS IS BAPTIZED, ALL THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO **JOHN'S PREACHING WERE BAPTIZED, AND IT** APPEARS THAT JESUS GETS IN LINE LIKE ALL THOSE THAT WERE GETTING BAPTIZED THAT DAY IN THE JORDAN RIVER.

* AND AGAIN **ACCORDING TO MATTHEW'S** ACCOUNT, DIALOGUE WENT ON BETWEEN JESUS AND JOHN AS JOHN DID NOT WANT TO BAPTIZE HIM, BUT FINALLY HE AGREES AND JESUS IS BAPTIZED.

** NOW LUKE POINTS OUT SOMETHING HERE THAT MATTHEW AND MARK DO NOT MENTION, THAT IS EXCLUSIVE TO LUKE.

*** AND IT IS THAT JESUS WAS PRAYING DURING HIS BAPTISM.

**** SO DURING HIS BAPTISM, AS WAS THE CASE THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, JESUS WAS A PERSON OF PRAYER COMMUNING WITH HIS FATHER.

16. AND LUKE IS THE GOSPEL WRITER THAT LOVES TO EMPHASIZE THAT JESUS AS THE SON OF MAN PRACTICED PRAYER.

* NOTICE THE PROGRESSION IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE IN LUKE 5:16 IT SAYS: BUT JESUS HIMSELF WOULD OFTEN SLIP AWAY TO THE

WILDERNESS AND PRAY.

** QUOTE LUKE 6:12.

***** IN LUKE 9:18A LUKE SAYS: "AND IT HAPPENED THAT WHILE HE WAS PRAYING ALONE."**

****** LUKE 9:29A, "AND WHILE HE (JESUS) WAS PRAYING."**

17. LUKE 22:32 JESUS SAID TO PETER, "BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU."

* IN LUKE 22:40-44 CHRIST PRAYS IN GETHSEMANE.

** AND IN LUKE 23:46 JESUS PRAYS FROM THE CROSS TO HIS FATHER.

*** SO LUKE LOVES TO EMPHASIZE THAT JESUS AS THE SON OF MAN IS A MAN OF PRAYER.

****** AND THE FACT THAT JESUS' BAPTISM**
OCCURS FRAMED BY PRAYER SHOULD NOT BE
MISSED.

18. FOR IF THE BELOVED SON COMMUNES WITH
HIS FATHER THROUGH PRAYER AS HE PURSUES
GLORIFYING HIS FATHER AND DOING HIS WILL IN
HIS CONDESCENSION IN BECOMING MAN, HOW
MUCH MORE SHOULD WE AS HUMAN BEINGS?

* IN APPLICATION, REGULAR TIME IN PRAYER IS
A LIFELINE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR
FATHER IN HEAVEN.

** AND FAILURE TO PRAY IS LIKE TRYING TO GO
THROUGH MARRIAGE WITHOUT TALKING TO
YOUR SPOUSE. IT BECOMES ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE TO BE ON THE SAME PAGE AS ONE
FACES THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE AND SERVICE
TO OUR GREAT GOD.

*** SO WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE DO? IT CALLS US TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING. TO BE IN THE ATTITUDE OF PRAYER IN I THESSALONIANS 5:17, TO CONTINUE IN PRAYER IN ROMANS 12:12, AND FROM OUR LORD JESUS TO WATCH, TO BE ALERT IN PRAYER, IN MATTHEW 26:41. (QUOTE THEM).

**** PRAYER MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR US AS IT WAS WITH OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE, THE LORD JESUS, WHO IS PRAYING AS HE IS BAPTIZED. AND AS HE DOES, NOTICE HEAVEN IS OPENED IN V. 21. AND THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES. SO LOOK **AT V. 22A PLEASE TO OUR 2'D POINT TODAY,** THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT, LOOK AT V. 22A PLEASE.

II. THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT, (READ V. 22A)

A. NOW AFTER CHRIST IS BAPTIZED, HE IMMEDIATELY COMES UP OUT OF THE JORDAN RIVER, HE COMES UP OUT OF THE WATER AND GOES TO THE RIVER SIDE, THE BANK OF THE RIVER.

*** AND WHILE HE'S PRAYING THE HEAVENS WERE**
OPENED AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDS AS A
DOVE, ACCORDING TO LUKE, IN A BODILY FORM
LIKE A DOVE, AND COMES UPON CHRIST.

** SO THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO HAS NO FORM, NO
BODY, WHO IS SPIRIT TAKES FORM AS, LIKE A
DOVE. NOW WHY A DOVE? WELL, TO THE
JEWISH MIND IN THAT DAY THE DOVE WAS
ASSOCIATED WITH SACRIFICE.

*** IN FACT SOMEONE HAS DESCRIBED THE DOVE
AS THE LAMB OF THE BIRDS, FOR THE DOVE
WAS THE POOREST OF O.T. SACRIFICES. IN
OTHER WORDS, IT WAS A POOR MAN'S LAMB.

**** FOR BULLOCKS WERE SACRIFICED BY THE
RICH AND LAMBS BY THE MIDDLE CLASS, BUT
MOST OF THE PEOPLE WERE POOR AND COULD
ONLY AFFORD A DOVE.

1. AND THE LEVITICAL LAW PRESCRIBED ONE DOVE ALONG WITH A LAMB OR TWO DOVES FOR ONLY THE POOR AS A SIN OFFERING, IN LEVITICUS 12:6-8 AND 14:22. WHAT WAS OFFERED BY JOSEPH AND MARY WHEN JESUS WAS TAKEN TO THE TEMPLE TO BE CONSECRATED – TWO DOVES OR TWO PIGEONS.

* AND IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE HOLY **SPIRIT'S DESCENT UPON CHRIST WAS TO, IN A** SENSE, ANOINT HIM FOR HIS PURPOSE TO BE THE SACRIFICE FOR SINNERS. TO ANOINT HIM FOR SERVICE AND MINISTRY WHICH WOULD LEAD TO HIS PURPOSE FOR COMING, TO BE THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB. SACRIFICE IS THE ISSUE.

** FOR CERTAINLY JESUS, LIKE JOHN, ALREADY HAD THE HOLY SPIRIT. JESUS WAS CONCEIVED BY THE SPIRIT, AND WOULD THERE EVER HAVE BEEN A TIME THAT HE WAS NOT FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT? – NO!

*** BUT JESUS HAD COME TO DIE, AND HE WAS ANOINTED FOR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE FORM OF A DOVE.

**** AND THIS EVENT WOULD FULFILL THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH 11:1&2 WHICH SAYS: **"THEN A SHOOT WILL SPRING FROM THE STEM OF JESSE, KING DAVID'S FATHER AND A BRANCH FROM HIS ROOTS WILL BEAR FRUIT. AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL REST ON HIM, THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND STRENGTH, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD."**

2. AND ALSO ISAIAH 61:1 WOULD BE FULFILLED **IN CHRIST IN HIS MINISTRY WHICH SAYS: "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME - TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE AFFLICTED; HE HAS SENT ME TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO CAPTIVES, AND FREEDOM TO PRISONERS."**

* AND THEN IN ACTS 10:38&39 IT SAYS JESUS WAS ANOINTED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, BASICALLY FOR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.

**** AND LET ME ADD, JESUS' ANOINTING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS UNIQUE. IT WAS NOT ONLY GIVEN TO ANOINT HIM FOR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE, BUT WAS ALSO THE VISIBLE, CONTINUAL SIGN TO JOHN AND TO EVERYONE ELSE WATCHING THAT JESUS TRULY WAS THE KING, THE MESSIAH, THE ONE WHOSE COMING THE LORD HAD CALLED JOHN TO ANNOUNCE AND TO PREPARE, JOHN 1:33&34.**

** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE CONFIRMATION OF THE FATHER. LOOK AT V. 22 AGAIN PLEASE.

III. THE CONFIRMATION OF THE FATHER, (READ V. 22)

A. NOW ALL THE TRINITY PARTICIPATED IN **JESUS' BAPTISM. THE SON HAD CONFIRMED HIS OWN KINGSHIP AND MESSIAHSHIP BY SAYING, "IT IS FITTING FOR US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS,"** IN MATTHEW 3:15.

* AND THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD CONFIRMED HIS RIGHT OF MESSIAHSHIP BY ANOINTING HIM, COMING UPON HIM.

** NOW THE FINAL **ASPECT OF CHRIST'S COMMISSION, WAS THE FATHER'S CONFIRMING WORD, "YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON, IN YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."**

*** **FOLKS, JESUS WAS THE FATHER'S BELOVED,** THE BELOVED ONE, HIS ESTEEMED SON, THE ONE WORTHY OF INFINITE LOVE.

****** AND THE FATHER'S VOICE** FROM HEAVEN COMMUNICATES HIS PLEASURE, HIS FAVOR, HIS **GOOD PLEASURE WITH THE SON AND WHAT HE'S** DOING AT THIS TIME AND WHAT HE WILL DO, AS THIS IS ONE OF 3 TIMES THE FATHER SPEAKS FROM HEAVEN REGARDING THE SON.

1. THE TWO OTHER OCCASIONS BEING AT THE **TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST AND THE 2^D** BEING SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH IN MATTHEW 17:5 AND JOHN 12:28.

*** BUT SPECIFICALLY AT CHRIST'S BAPTISM THE FATHER THUNDERS FROM HEAVEN, "YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON, IN YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."**

**** NOW IN CLOSING AND WRAP UP, WHY WAS THE FATHER WELL PLEASED? WELL, IT APPEARS THE ANSWER IN THIS CONTEXT CONTINUES TO COMMUNICATE THE PURPOSE OF THE START OF HIS SON'S MINISTRY, THIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE, TO COMMUNICATE SACRIFICE - WHY HE CAME.**

*** FOR NO O.T. SACRIFICE, NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY SELECTED HAD EVER BEEN PLEASING TO GOD.

**** IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO FIND AN ANIMAL THAT DID NOT HAVE SOME BLEMISH, SOME IMPERFECTION.

2. BUT NOT ONLY THAT, THE BLOOD OF THOSE ANIMALS WAS AT BEST ONLY SYMBOLIC, FOR HEB. 10:4 SAYS: (QUOTE)

* BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? THE SACRIFICE THAT JESUS WOULD MAKE ON THE CROSS WOULD PLEASE THE FATHER, HEBREWS 10:10, 10:12-14 (QUOTE THEM)

** AND BELOVED, NOT ONLY WAS THE FATHER PLEASED WITH THE SON BY HIS LIFE, BUT MOST OF ALL BY HIS DEATH, I ACCEPT HIM AS THE SACRIFICE. . AND THIS APPEARS TO ME TO BE THE PICTURES AND THE MEANING OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

*** THE GREAT TRUTH OF SACRIFICE IS EXALTED AND THE GREAT TRUTH OF THE TRINITY IS REVEALED. AND EVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM, BUT ALSO THE SINLESSNESS OF OUR SAVIOR.

**** GOD IS THREE PERSONS AND YET ONE IN ESSENCE, GOD THE FATHER SPEAKS; GOD THE SON IS BAPTIZED; GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDS ON JESUS. ONE OF THE CLEAREST TEXTS OF THE GODHEAD.

***** GOD IS ONE, YET IN 3 PERSONS AT THE SAME TIME, A REVEALED MYSTERY, THE INCOMPREHENSIBILITY OF GOD AND HIS GREATNESS IS COMMUNICATED IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY.

- BUT ALSO TODAY, CERTAINLY JESUS CHRIST HAS GIVEN US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW IN HIS BAPTISM.

- **AND WITHOUT QUESTION JOHN'S BAPTISM WAS NOT THE SAME AS CHRISTIAN BAPTISM.**

(2) BUT IN APPLICATION TODAY, NOTICE WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT CHRISTIAN BAPTISM IN THE GREAT COMMISSION IN MATTHEW 28:19&20. (QUOTE THEM)

* AND IN THIS TEXT, MAKE DISCIPLES IS THE MAIN VERB AND THE CENTRAL COMMAND. AND TO BECOME A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST IS TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN, A FOLLOWER OF JESUS.

** NOW IN MAKING DISCIPLES WE GO AND EVANGELIZE. WE BAPTIZE PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND WE TEACH PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH THEM IN THE FAITH.

*** NOW LET ME EMPHASIZE BAPTISM HERE. THIS IS A COMMAND OF JESUS FOR HIS FOLLOWERS. AND THE PERSON WHO IS UNWILLING TO BE BAPTIZED IS AT BEST A DISOBEDIENT BELIEVER.

**** BAPTISM HAS NO PART IN OUR SALVATION, BUT CERTAINLY IT IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE AFTER SALVATION. (ILLUST. - TELLING YOUR CHILD TO TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE.)

(3) I WOULD CHALLENGE YOU TODAY, IF YOU TRULY KNOW CHRIST TO COME TO THE BAPTISMAL MEETING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IN **THE CONFERENCE ROOM. (LET'S PRAY)**