

John the Baptist – the Forerunner of Jesus

The Promise/Prophecy of John the Baptist - Malachi 4:5

The Announcement of his birth - Luke 1:5-17

His Lineage - Levite (priest); father was Zechariah

Zechariah ministering (praying) in the temple

His Arrival - Luke 1:57-66

The Life of John the Baptist

Childhood - Luke 1:80

Ministry - Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:19-24

Geography of ministry – “the wilderness along the Jordan river”
(not the temple)

His Message - John 1:29-34

General message: “repent for the kingdom of God is at hand”

Matt. 3:2 “Flee the wrath to come” Matt. 3:7

Specifically: John 1:29-34

The Death of John the Baptist

Events leading to his death - Matthew 14:1-12

Event of execution - Matthew 14:10

Eulogy - Matt. 11:11 (given before his death)

Some Trivia about John found in the Scripture:

1. His birth was one of three miraculous births recorded in Scripture: Isaac, John and Jesus
2. He was born 6 month before Jesus
3. John lived only 30+ years
4. John would have been a priest should he have lived.
5. John exchanged his priestly garb for camel’s hair and leather.
6. Jesus deemed John a prophet. (Matt. 11:7-19)
7. John performed his ministry away from the temple in the wilderness along the Jordan River.
8. John had two disciples who left him to follow Jesus. (One was Andrew, the other is unknown) (John 1:29-34)
9. Scripture records only one time that John met Jesus (Jesus’ baptism) (Luke 3:13-17)
10. John questioned Jesus as to Him being the Messiah (Matthew 11:1-6)

“JOHN – Testifier of the Light”

John 1:6-8

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. John 1:6

1. GOD’S CHOICE OF A MAN

Commissioned by God – *a man sent from God* (Luke 1:24, 25)

John’s birth was miraculous in that his mother was beyond childbearing age
(Luke 1:18-25)

Identity of the man – *whose name was John:*

“Jehovah-given” or “Jehovah has been gracious”

He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light John 1:7a,b

2. GOD’S PURPOSE FOR THE MAN

To be a witness – *testimony, reputation, martyr* (WHO he was)

To bear witness – *to speak well of* (John 1:19-42) (WHAT his message was)

It wasn’t about himself (v. 8 – John was not the Light)

It was about the Light – Christ is the Message (John 1:29-34)

It was about the ministry – a voice, an identifier, a soul winner

It is about our citizenship (Philippians 1:27 – “manner of life”)

that all might believe through him. John 1:7c

3. GOD’S PURPOSE THE MESSAGE

To know (believe – have a conviction about) the Light

He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. John 1:8

4. GOD’S PURPOSE CLARIFIED FOR JOHN... AND FOR US

John was not the Light – and we are not the Light (John 1:19-24)

John 1:19, 20 – the question: “Who are you?”

The Christ? Or Elijah? (Mal. 4:5 - promised; Matt. 17:13 - fulfilled)

The prophet? – (Deut. 18:15 a new prophet like Moses?)

John was sent to testify of the Light – and we are called to testify of the Light (John 1:8)

confessed - John 1:20; a voice - John 1:23;

message - Mark 1:7; John 1:15, 27; 3:30

Challenge ➡ ***What kind of testimony do you have?***