

Hello! This is Dorothy -

We are in **John's Gospel** and I would like us to see a most amazing timing. John the Baptist had been baptizing with water, but he had been baptizing a baptism unto repentance; a baptism that was pointing the need to the Only One who could remove sin. It was this One who would come, the Lord Jesus. He was a cousin, but also John knew from this his own parents, Jesus had been born spotless of a virgin, Mary. So, He was to come and John was just going before, opening the door for this ministry. What a privilege, for he said later in **chapter 3 and verse 30 - He must increase, but I must decrease.**

We read in **verse 29 of chapter 1 of John -**

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

The Lamb of God. You see, all the sacrifices had to look for that perfect Lamb. The sacrifices at the temple for sin could not take away their sin; it was taking care of only what they brought before God, but who could take away the sin of the world? No lamb could do that!

Looking for the perfect sacrifice, John beheld, at last, the One he had eagerly anticipated to merge for public ministry. Our Lord would have been about thirty years of age at this time and He is the Lamb of God.

30 This is of he whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before

me: for he was before me. Now this is interesting. We know that John the Baptist was at least six months older from the time that Mary brought Him forth in that little manger in Bethlehem. Yet, John knew from Scriptures, having studied them all his life, that the Lord Jesus was God; He was the Eternal One. He had come and had taken upon Himself flesh so John could rightly say - . . . *for he was before me.*

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shall see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

This is terribly important to understand. You see, we read here that John had already been confronted by the Pharisees and the Sadducees with their demands of, “Why are you baptising? What is all this ritual? We don’t need this. What is this about?” John had been able to say, . . . *he that sent me to baptize with water . . .* He knew God had sent him. He was there when our Lord came and submitted himself to be baptized. Why would the Lord have need to be baptized? He had nothing to repent of; He was the spotless Son of God! Why? He said to John, “It is befitting for righteousness’ sake that we do this.” (**Matthew 3:15**). For He showed at that point, as He went into public ministry, that He was willing to conform as a man, under God’s perfect plan which He had agreed upon before laying aside His glory in Heaven. He therefore would come, live this spotless life and minister and heal by the grace of God that was shed abroad

through Him. This was not only in that day, but for you and me today, He was willing to go into those waters.

It is interesting that the Trinity is shown here as the Spirit of God descended from heaven and remained on Him. He was baptized with the Holy Ghost. He had already been full of the Holy Ghost, but He was baptized unto that which would eventually be His own death, that He might one day conquer sin and rise from the grave. It was the Father that told John and sent him to do this. It was then that the Father's voice was heard:

17 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit - the triune God. One God in three People. How could this be? One God: one eternal God. God the Father, together with the Son, planned that Jesus would come and take upon Himself flesh to be that perfect Son of God that you might be saved. Will you do that today?

In Jesus' Name. Amen.