

NT #5

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3

GT

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Mal. 3:1 I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant.

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness - prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley exalted, mountain/hill made low, crooked straight, rough plain

- everyone will see the Glory of the Lord when Israel is returned to its land

Matthew 3:2 → JB: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near

raiment of camel's hair, leather girdle, locusts and wild honey →

3:8 when John sees the Pharisees & Sadducees coming to be baptized, he calls them a generation of vipers, and tells them to bring forth fruit meet for repentance - acts consistent with repentance

3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance

3:15 suffer it to be so, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness

The normal LDS take on this is that Jesus was only baptized because it was a commandment & he wanted to set an example. Let's examine what happened:

- He went under the water, and went up out of the water
- The heavens were opened unto him
- Spirit of God descending like a dove
- voice from Heaven - this is beloved Son - well pleased
- spirit "driveth" him into the wilderness - fast 40 days - angels ministered unto him

Now we show that Jesus' baptism wasn't just about obedience

Genesis

Adam 1:2 the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, 3: and God spoke: let there be light from chaos brought to order. The end of creation is a world God pronounces good.

Noah 7:11 fountains of the great deep broken up; windows of heaven opened
8:1 God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged
8:8-12 3 times sending the dove
8:1 Peter 3:20-21 flood called a likeness of baptism

Moses Exodus 4:22-23 Tell Pharaoh Israel is my firstborn son - let him go
14:19 - Angel of God present. God speaks to Moses (v.15 stretch forth your hand)
:21 strong east wind made the sea dry land
:30-31 the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hands of the Egyptians → all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

Joshua 3:5 sanctify yourself (bring forth fruit meet for repentance)

Jonah 3-4 priests holding the ark (dwelling place of God) hold back the waters so the ppl enter land of promise
Jonah 2:9 salvation is of Yahweh (Yahweh saves) Jonah 2:2 out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice - powerful symbol of addiction (rock bottom)

Matthew 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, but no sign will be given but the sign of Jonas

- Doesn't explain what he meant. But most assume he was ~~speaking~~ drawing a parallel between 3 days in the belly of the whale = 3 days in the tomb →

BUT 1st of all it is an assumption that Jesus meant only that parallel (since it is pretty clear he at least meant that one)

BUT ALSO a parallel to the death of Christ IS a parallel to his baptism.

Romans 6: 1-8 baptism into Jesus Christ is baptism unto his death
6:7, 18 we are free from sin (no longer slaves in Egypt)

There is one other "beloved Son" in the Bible → Isaac, ~~the~~ ~~one~~ for whom a lamb was chosen to die. And the "in whom I am well pleased" echoes Isaiah 52:13 & 53:10 - the suffering servant, who is "cut off from the land of the living" (v.8) and makes a grave with the rich & wicked (v.9). ~~So Jesus is~~ So the pronouncement of the Father is naming Jesus as the one called (and named the "Lamb of God" by JTB) to die for Israel, and Paul implies as much. He goes through the waters of death ~~for~~ for and in behalf of Israel. Indeed, as we discussed in the last 2 lessons - Jesus' baptism, wilderness, Jordan, death/exile echoes Israel - he is Israel, but Israel as it should have been.

Since the beginning, God has been seeking a faithful covenant partner ~~to~~ with whom he can arrange to bless mankind. But, first with Adam, then with Noah, he failed. Then, he tries calling one nation to be a kingdom of priests & holy nation (Abrahamic Cov.) but that fails. So he chooses a royal line (Davidic Cov.) and promises it will last, but they fail. So, finally God himself comes down & assumes not only the role of God, blessing man from above, but also man, earning the blessings of the plan by being faithful to the covenant here below. In his two aspects, Yehweh: and Christ, Jesus has fulfilled both roles in the covenant of salvation. This is why we have, as Paul says, nothing to glory in but the cross of Jesus.

- why did the Father show up at Jesus' baptism (publicly) and not at any other time, for any of the ~~other~~ marvelous things Jesus did. As Paul said we are baptized into Jesus' death when we are baptized, so Jesus also was baptized into his death. Three years before Gethsemane, Jesus (who knows when ~~is~~ the suffering servant and saying to the father - ~~is~~ Isaiah 11:1-12 In the last days, God will gather Israel. Isaiah applies to him)

v. 15 the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea, and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, ~~and~~ and it will be broken into seven, and men will go over dryshod.

v. 16 [there will be a high way for his people, like when they came out of Egypt]

When we are baptized unto Jesus Christ, we are not baptized only unto Christ's death. We are also baptized unto his baptism. Which means we take upon us all this beautiful imagery from all of the scriptures, are adopted as part of Israel, welcomed in, to say it better, come join us, we're created anew, God is showing us mercy, we're freed ~~for~~ from our addictions and the slavery of sin, and Christ, the Eternal High Priest, holds back the waters while, dryshod, we enter the promised land, never more to go out.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.