

Jesus and John the Baptist

Introduction

Have you ever reread Scripture expecting a reminder of what you already knew but this time those familiar verses just came alive? It is as if they just jump out at you because of the depth of understanding they are revealing. This happened to me recently and that is what I will attempt to share with you today.

Lesson

The Deity of Jesus Christ, The Son of God. Look at how John records the **spiritual** and **physical** foundation for his Gospel as he presents Jesus as the “**Logos**” who was sent from God as the **life** and **light** for all mankind. “**Logos**” is the principle or person of **divine order**. The second person of the Trinity. In the **Hebrew** and **Greek** cultures the “**Logos**” was the best method of persuasion using **divine reason** and **logic**,

*In the beginning was the **Word (Jesus)**, and the **Word** was with **God**, and the **Word** was **God**.² The same was in the beginning with **God**.³ All things were *made by him*; and *without him was not any thing made that was made*.⁴ In him was *life*; and the *life* was the light of men.*

John 1:1-4

On the heels of the greatest announcement of God’s blessings for all mankind comes the announcement of man’s greatest tragedy for all mankind. Just think of the enormity of these two announcements. The **best** thing that has ever happened for man (vs. 4-5a) and the **worst** thing that has happened by man (vs. 5b). Both affecting all mankind. This is a brilliant way for John to lay the foundation for his Gospel.

*And the **light** (Jesus) **shineth in darkness** (man); and the **darkness** **comprehended it not**.*

John 1:5

Enter John, the Baptist.

*There was **a man sent from God**, whose name was **John** (John’s name means, “God is gracious”).⁷ The same came for a witness, **to bear witness of the Light**,*

that all men through him (John) might believe. ⁸ He (John) was not that Light (Jesus was the light), but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

John 1:6-8

John has begun contrasting these two men. It is important because it reveals to us a better understanding of **who we are** and **what our spiritual and natural life's purpose should be**. My own belief is that John, the Baptist is among a very small population of people who knew what their purpose in life was – **and no more – or no less**. This is why I want to pay attention.

JESUS, the Son of God	JOHN the Baptist, the witness
1. Jesus was sent by God. 2. Jesus was and is God. 3. Jesus was with God.	1. John was sent by God. John was a witness about Jesus v. 7 – John gave an international, universal appeal so all would believe in Jesus and be saved.
Jesus is the life and light of all mankind.	v. 8 – John was not the light. John was sent to bear witness of the life and light .
Jesus is the object of faith .	John is the agent of the faith that all would believe through him in Jesus, not in John. John is the lamp. Jesus is the light. John is the container; Jesus is the flame.
Jesus was the Word that became flesh .	John was simply a man of flesh .

The works of Christ. Jesus' work is the light.

*That was the **true Light** (Jesus), which **lighteth every man** that cometh into the world.*

John 1: 9

Jesus lightens every man that comes into the world. I believe there is a goodness the Holy Spirit has placed upon every child who is born into this world. They **see** it. They **perceive** it. **It becomes part of them** before the influence of their surroundings ever begin to **feed** it or attempt to **destroy** it. But it is always there, speaking to them for the rest of their lives. **Jesus said:**

*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men unto me**.*

The Revelation.

From beauty to tragedy. This **revelation in John 1: 9** is one of the most beautiful and powerful declarations ever given to men, and then John immediately follows up with one of the most tragic declarations recorded.

The Rejection.

*He (Jesus) was **in the world**, and the world was **made by him**, and the world **knew him not.** ¹¹ **He came unto his own, and his own received him not.***

John 1: 10 - 11

Jesus has enlightened every man in the world and yet the world has not recognized that. Even Jesus' own people did not receive Him.

Reception. His own received Him not, **but wait, Jesus did get a few.** A remnant? John has a unique style of writing. He makes a blanket absolute statement and then he immediately follows up with an exception to what he just said.

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the **sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were **born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.***

John 1: 12 – 13

A small group of Jews and an even smaller group of Gentiles did receive Jesus at first and I can't help but notice they are combined together as one, "*But as many as received him...*" confirming verse 7 "*that all men through him might believe.*"

Salvation is what we have all desired from the time we were born. Yet, we do not receive it by the power of our own desires. Although we are **given the power** to become the sons of God. **We are born again not of blood, or our own will, or of any man. We are now born of God.**

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Colossians 2:6

Sounds simple enough. How did we **receive** and **believe upon Jesus** as our Lord and Savior? **Through faith**. How should we act? How do we grow in Christ? What do we do for Christ and how? **Answer: The same way we received Christ in the first place. By faith!** Paul gives us all more confirmation about **who we are**, what **our purpose** is, and whom we **are to become in Christ** in the next few verses.

*Rooted and built up in him, and **stablished** in the faith, as ye have been taught, **abounding** therein with thanksgiving. ⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹ For **in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily**. ¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: ¹¹ In whom also ye are **circumcised** with the circumcision made **without hands**, in **putting off the body of the sins of the flesh** by the circumcision of Christ: ¹² **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are **risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead**.*

Colossians 2:7-12

John continues his witness describing who Jesus **was** and **is**.

*And the Word **was made flesh**, and **dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his **glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth**. ¹⁵ **John bare witness** of him, and cried, saying, **This was he** of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is **preferred before me: for he was before me**. ¹⁶ And of **his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace**. ¹⁷ For the **law** was given by **Moses**, but **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ**.*

John 1:14-17

Verse 14 tells us that **while** (or, at the time) Jesus was God (**the Word**), he became flesh. Then He **dwelt among us** as man and **we beheld His glory**. This was not just a reflection of God's glory because **Jesus also had His own inherent glory** as the **Word** (God, second member of the Trinity). He made Himself subject to the Father and got His direction **from** the Father.

He certainly reflected the glory of the Father. But that does not mean that He didn't have His own glory. It was inherent. Jesus was the "only" (**Gr. *monogenace***) or the **uniquely begotten** of the Father. There was no other like Him.

In **Verse 15** John the Baptist is telling us his place and purpose.

*John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, **This was he** of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is **preferred before me**: for he was before me.*

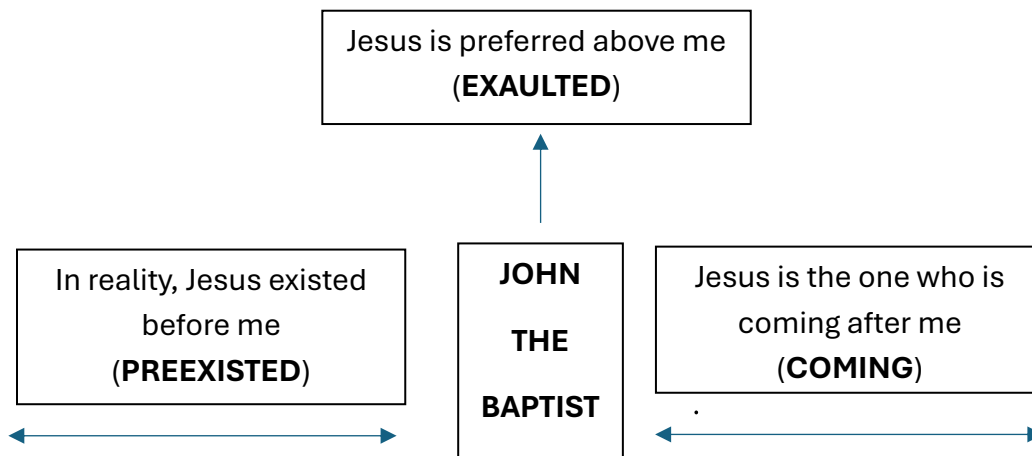
John 1:15

1. Who is older, John the Baptist or Jesus? (John). Why would John say, "**he was before me.**"? Because John is continuing to declare his witness according to his purpose.

*And, behold, thy cousin **Elisabeth**, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and **this is the sixth month with her**, who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing shall be impossible. ³⁸ And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*

Luke 1:36-38

This is the model of what a witness is.



2. To me, this was just a detail until I recognized the enormity of what John was continuing to declare as Jesus' witness.

3. As God, Jesus **existed** before me. Jesus is **coming** after me. Jesus is **exalted** above me.

When we understand our **roll**, as John did, we understand more about our **purpose**. We are not the one who **PREEXISTED**. We are not the one who is **COMING**. **AND**, we are not the one who is **EXAULTED**. We must assume our place as a witness.

He must increase, but I must decrease. ³¹ *He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.*

John 3:30-31

Verse 16 - 17 – We have received grace and grace upon grace. John reminds us in verse 17 that we have received the Law through Moses. But **grace** and **truth** came through Jesus Christ. We have received grace through Christ who gave us salvation, but our walk with Him is like grace piled upon grace and truth upon truth as we follow Christ.

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

John 1:16-17

We have received grace through Christ who gave us salvation, but our walk with Him is like grace piled upon grace and truth upon truth as we follow Christ.

*Whom shall he teach **knowledge**? and whom shall he make to understand **doctrine**? them that are **weaned from the milk**, and **drawn from the breasts**. ¹⁰ For **precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little**:*

Isaiah 28:9-10

All of our maturing in Christ heaps upon us grace upon grace, upon grace. Wave upon wave or pile upon pile of grace as we walk in Him. What was the purpose of Christ? **To explain the Father** (*John 14:9 - Whoever has seen me has seen the Father*). The purpose of the Holy Spirit? **To explain the Father**. **To secure the relationship between God and man**. The one who gave us life **physically** (Jesus) came back to

give us life **spiritually** and so that **we might know what God is like**. **AND**, He is coming again. The one who **creates** is the one who **recreates**.

*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but **the will of him that sent me**.³⁹ And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.⁴⁰ And **this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.***

John 6:38-40

Conclusion

*No man hath seen (Gr. – horaō – to see with eyes and to understand. Here to fully discern and comprehend God.) **God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.***

John 1:18

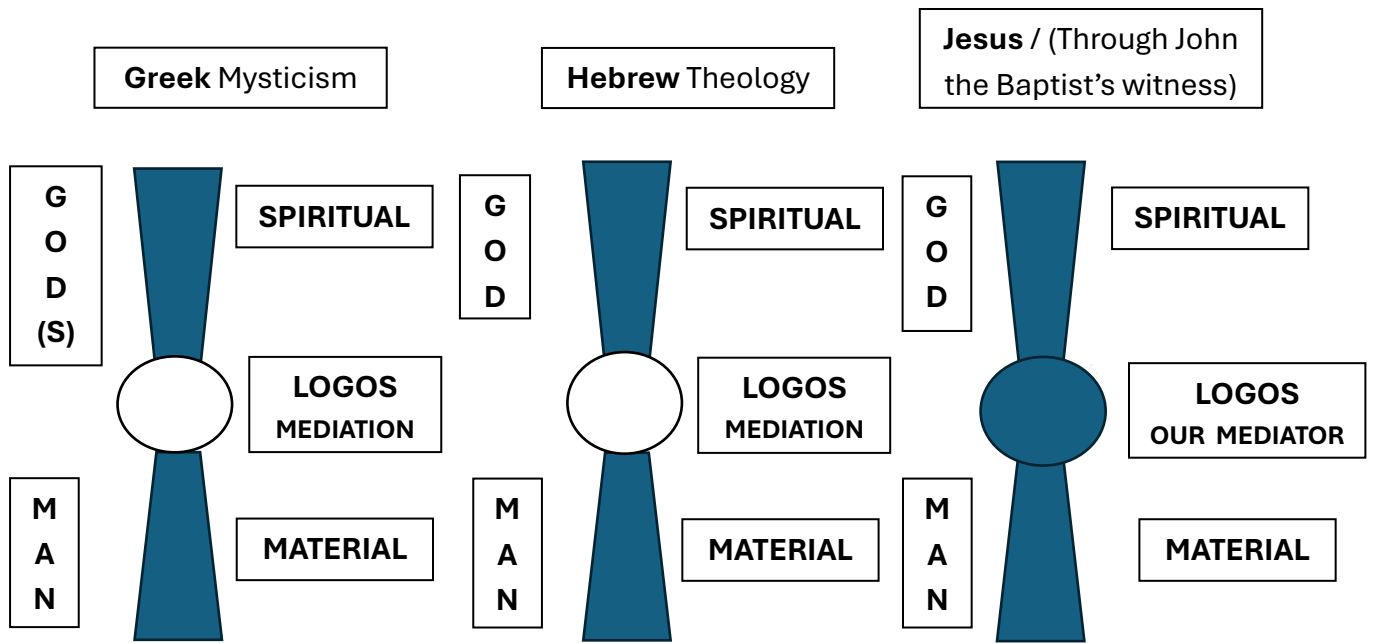
Some men did see God in part or perhaps see a portion of His glory (Joshua, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Danuel for example). But, **no man has comprehended or experienced God at any time in all His fulness except for His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON**. Jesus has declared Him (God)! Jesus is **the first and only** to declare God **in the fulness of the Holy Spirit** so that we might understand.

*For he whom God hath sent (Jesus) **speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.***

John 3:32-34

LOGOS – The principle of **reason and creative order**. “The rational principles underlying natural processes and structure of reality.” This definition was vague enough to satisfy most **Greeks** and **Jews** regarding TRUTH. Strangely, even before Jesus.

In Christian theology, it specifically refers to **Jesus Christ as the divine Word of God**, particularly featured in the Gospel of John as **the pre-existent Son**. It signifies the **divine reason and creative order, incarnate in Jesus**, and also encompasses the broader concept of God's communication and self-expression.



Greek ○ is the **lowest** place the God(s) could reach and the **highest** place man could ever achieve. There may be some small element of truth **in principle** one could rise to but very minimal because the God(s) were not reaching down through the Logos.

Hebrew ○ Provides a **personification of the truth of God** (in principle). God revealed Himself in the **personification of creation and wisdom and power**.

In Jesus. ● We do not have a PRINCIPLE ONLY concept of truth (Greek) or an unseen and partially understood concept of mediation (Hebrews). **We have a MEDIATOR who is God and risen man!** Not just a revelation or principle, we have **GOD HIMSELF**. Not just wisdom but **full grace and truth IN PERSON!**

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:6

God, help us to understand our purpose and give us the wisdom and strength to accomplish your will.