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Recap

- John’s Gospel is usually divided into four sections: The Prologue (first 18 verses); the Book of Signs, up through chapter 12: Jesus’ public ministry; the Book of Glory, includes the Last Supper, Passion, and Resurrection; and the Epilogue.
- John the Baptist was the first person to be a witness to Jesus.
- John explained that he was not one of the end-times figures that the Jews were expecting (Messiah, Elijah, the Prophet). He was a voice crying in the wilderness.
- John was announcing someone who existed before him!

Text: John 1:29-34

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ 31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” 32 And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

1. Behold The Lamb of God! (John 1:29)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- This was the day after John the Baptist was interrogated.
- It appears this happened when Jesus returned from the wilderness.
- The events here may create a week designed to mirror the Passion Week.

John calls Jesus a Lamb.

- The Passover Lamb kept the people safe from death and judgment. The New Testament even says that Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
- There were also traditions of a conquering end-times lamb.
- There was also a daily sacrifice that took place in the Temple.
- Perhaps John the Baptist is thinking of the 53rd chapter of Isaiah: *His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations.... He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.... Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.... He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. (Isa. 52:13ff.)*

He is God's appointed Lamb!

Not only is He **the** Lamb, He's **God's** Lamb.

He takes away the sin of the world!

Not only Jews but people of every nation can now be saved.

2. The Reason For John's Ministry (John 1:30-31)

30 "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

- Notice John's three points: (1) Jesus is a man; (2) Jesus is preferred before John; (3) Jesus is more than a man!
- John, like so many other people in Israel, didn't "know" Jesus.
- John was baptizing so that Jesus might be revealed to Israel.

3. The Spirit-Baptizer, The Son Of God (John 1:32-34)

32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

- Note the important word again — bearing witness.
- We find the story in Luke 3: *When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”* (Luke 3:21-22)
- Here we see the three Persons of the Trinity together. The Spirit appeared in the **likeness** of a dove.
- Notably, the Spirit remained upon Jesus, Who was powerfully anointed by God for His mission.
- It may be hard for us to grasp, but Jesus was ministering as a Man.

John emphasizes that he didn't know Jesus...

- God gave that sign to him, as a way to recognize Jesus was.
- The One on Whom the Spirit descends and remains is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. This sets Jesus apart from everyone else.
- This is another indirect statement of proof that Jesus is God Himself. Only God can “give you God.”

The Promise of the Father

- “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are [clothed] with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)
- “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me...” (Acts 1:4)

- In all four Gospels, Jesus is described as the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.
- Moses expressed the wish that all God’s people might be prophets. The prophets also spoke of it (Isa. 32, Isa. 44, Ezek. 39, Joel 2).
- The Old Testament was pointing to a time when all God’s people could experience the Holy Spirit in a powerful dimension.
- Does this sign or its absence explain the doubt we later see in John the Baptist?
- Acts 19: Paul finds disciples of John who didn’t know the Spirit had been given.

Question on the titles “Son of God” and “Son of Man”

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

(Luke 1:35)

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” (Dan. 7:13-14)

“What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”’?” (Matt. 22:42-45)
