

# WHY DID JOHN WATER BAPTIZE

## A QUESTION OF THE ONLY 'BAPTIST' IN THE BIBLE

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

~ John 1:31

### 1. The 'Baptist'

- a. The name of a church signifies its origin, pattern, or priority
- b. Many Baptists trace their origin and pattern to John the Baptist
- c. Why was John called Baptist? – Matthew 3:1, Mark 1:4

### 2. Why Baptizeth Thou

- a. *"Who art thou?"* - John 1:19-23
- b. He was the messenger preparing the way of the Lord - Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1
- c. Why did they ask if he was Elijah? – Malachi 4:5, 2 Kings 1:8
- d. *"Why baptizeth thou"* – John 1:25
- e. There was a highway that needed prepared for the Lord - Isaiah 35:8

### 3. John Prepared the People of the Lord

- a. *"baptism of repentance for the remission of sins"* – Mk 1:4
- b. Jews practiced washings and baptisms - Hebrews 9:10 (Heb 6:2)
- c. Washings for cleansing of sins - Leviticus 17:15-16, 22:6
- d. The purification of the people - Numbers 19:17-20 – Psa 51:7
- e. Washing required for priests – Number 8:6-7, Exo 29:4, 30:17-21; Isaiah 61:6
- f. Hezekiah prepares the people for Passover - 2 Chronicles 29:5, 30:19
- g. John's baptism was always preached for remission of sins – Acts 2:38

### 4. John Identified the Messiah to Israel

- a. The messenger identifies the Messiah by baptism - John 1:29-34
- b. Jesus identifies John and his kingdom ministry – Luke 7:28-30, Matt 11:11-12
- c. John and Jesus ministered to the circumcision – rom 15:8

### 5. John's Disciples Ignorant of the Cross

- a. Where John's baptism is practiced people think they are Israel who follow the Messiah
- b. The only 'Baptist' in the Bible did not understand the cross – Mark 9:32, Col 1:14, Eph 1:7
- c. John's disciples did not trust Jesus – John 3:25-36
- d. They did not know Jesus or what he did – Acts 19:1-4
- e. We do not cherry pick our pattern – We choose based on 1) gospel, 2) progressive revelation, 3) dispensational context; 4) author/audience; 5) our identity in Christ
- f. We follow Paul's pattern in baptism – 1 Cor 12:13 – which does not require getting wet