

John Chapter 4

Baptize (4 passages):

A. 1:19-23. Inquiry of "the Jews" (priests of the Pharisaic party): who are you? At Bethany beyond Jordan. John's testimony: "I am not the Christ. ... Behold the Lamb of God!" Purpose of John's baptism: to reveal Israel's Redeemer. Jesus unknown before His baptism.

B. 3:22-31. Jesus baptizes in Judea - John in Salim. Inquiry of "the Jews" and John's disciples: "All are coming to Him." John's testimony: "...the Bridegroom...He must increase, but I decrease."

C. 4:1-4. Pharisees heard of Jesus' increase: His disciples baptized more disciples than John. Jesus departed Judea via Samaria for Galilee.

D. 10:31-42. "The Jews" try to stone Jesus. Jesus' testimony: "...believe the works..." Jesus escapes to where John first baptized. Testimony of new disciples: John did no sign, but his testimony about Jesus was true. Many believed in Jesus.

Common Threads and Trends:

- a. Unbelieving Jewish authorities - increasing resistance
- b. Baptizing by John and Jesus' disciples - baptizing is part of the testimony!
- c. Testimonies about Jesus - from John, Jesus Himself, His disciples, and finally spies
- d. Jesus increases from obscurity to fame
- e. John decreases in his following of disciples
- f. Testimony begins beyond Jordan, then Judea, then Samaria, then Galilee, then finally in Judea

Verse by Verse:

4:1-2 Jesus Himself did not baptize. Why? "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true." (5:31). "believe the works" (10:38). "John performed no sign, but everything John spoke of this Man is true." (10:41) "this is He Who baptizes with holy spirit." (1:33)

Teaching points:

- a. John's testimony included water baptism, but no sign (10:41)
- b. At John's baptizing of Jesus, God provided the sign of the Dove, indicating the Holy Spirit's baptizing - and thus the Christ was revealed to Israel
- c. Afterward, Jesus' testimony included signs by the power of this Holy Spirit baptism

- d. Jesus' disciples were eager to continue water baptism - and this too served a purpose in demonstrating John's "Increase-Decrease" prophecy about Jesus and himself
- e. Christ's role included a new, spiritual baptism which He performed after His resurrection - His "new wine" required "new wineskins"

4:3-4 Jesus must pass through Samaria. Why? Because of the "other sheep" requirement. See *Dei* structure in John's Gospel. See NT Teaching on Samaria.

Whole Texts Supporting Baptism Overview:

John 1:19-33

¹⁹ Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said: "I *am* 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD," ' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴ Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ²⁵ And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ "It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." ²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. 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.'

John 3:22-31

²² After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. ²³ Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. ²⁴ For John had not yet been thrown into prison. ²⁵ Then there arose a dispute between *some* of

John's disciples and the Jews about purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified -- behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!" ²⁷ John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. ²⁸ "You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' ²⁹ "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. ³⁰ "He must increase, but I *must* decrease. ³¹ "He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

John 4:1-4

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. ⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria.

John 10:31-42

³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" ³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" '? ³⁵ "If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ "do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? ³⁷ "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him." ³⁹ Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand. ⁴⁰ And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. ⁴¹ Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." ⁴² And many believed in Him there.