

## “Why Was Jesus Baptized?”

**Luke 3:18-22**

Oct. 17, 2021

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21 Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened,

22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

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- John kept right on preaching the gospel.
  - He does it by exhorting the people – repent of your sin, receive Jesus as your Savior.
- God has called and energized today some like John to have ministries in difficult places.

Today – many ministries crawl into the dark holes of the world to bring the gospel.

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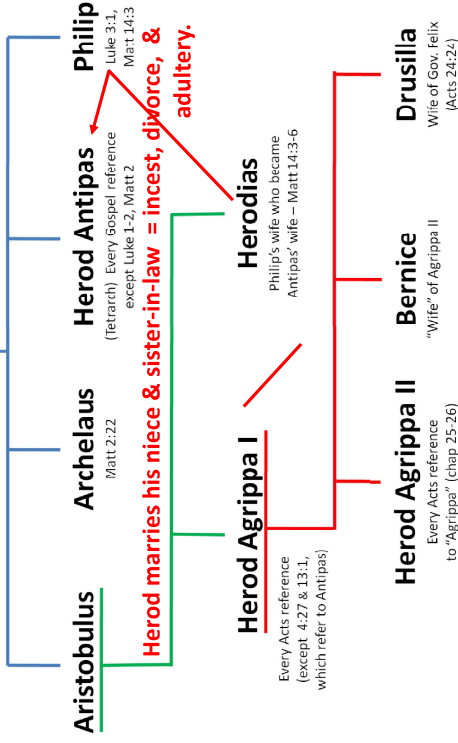
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- Herod was Herodias' uncle, and he seduced her from his half-brother. In marrying Herodias, Herod at once married a woman both his niece and his sister-in-law.

## Herod the Great

Luke 1-2, Matt 2



### 19 But when Herod the tetrarch was reprimanded by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the wicked things which Herod had done,

- Herod was Herodias' uncle, and he persuaded her to leave his half-brother. In marrying Herodias, Herod at once married a woman both his niece and his sister-in-law.
- John the Baptist preached the Law even to Herod Antipas.
- John called for Herod to repent.
- The world for the most part does not like to be exposed and confronted for their sin.

### John 3:19-20

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

- Leaders in government will do most anything to cover-up their sins.

8 Having been prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

9 Although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests.

10 He sent and had John beheaded in the prison.

11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

12 His disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus.

13 Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

### Lev 18:16

16 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

### Lev 20:21

21 'If there is a man who takes his brother's wife, it is abhorrent; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness.

### Matt 14:1-14

- 1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus, 2 and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."
- 3 For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip.
- 4 For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."
- 5 Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet.

\*Josephus says that the reason for the arrest was that Herod "feared lest the great influence John had over the people might put it in his power and inclination to raise a rebellion; for they seemed ready to do anything he should advise."

6 But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod,

7 so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.

"It cost him his head but it's better to have a head like John and lose it, than have an ordinary head and keep it."

- A.T. Robertson

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**"added"** – "to top it all off . . ."

**"to them all"** – incest, adultery, immorality, wicked, cruel, etc.

- John was murdered about a year after he had been put in prison.

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"Herod's response to the exposure of his sin is instructive. He does not face the sin and take responsibility for it; he strikes back, taking advantage of his authority to do so. Such a response is all too familiar. Herod will use all the authority at his disposal to silence the voice of conviction, for eventually he will execute John. Sin confronted but unchecked often becomes sin multiplied and magnified. Defensiveness in the face of sin is inevitably self-destructive. Unfortunately, the damage often extends beyond the one who is sinning."

- Darrel Bock

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- Luke is recording this in topical order and not sequential order.

### **Matt 3:13-14**

13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.

14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

### **Mark 1:9**

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

### **John 1:29-33**

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

30 "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'

31 "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water."

32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

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- Note: John is not mentioned here in the baptism of Jesus.
- Luke is recording this in topical order and not sequential order.
- Luke finishes with John and now the entire focus is on Jesus.
- Jesus has been in obscurity.
- Thirty years in which Jesus has increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man.
- He couldn't just come down for a weekend, die on the cross, rise again, and then go back to heaven. There would have been no righteous life.

So why was Jesus baptized?

### **Matt 3:13-17**

- 13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.
- 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"
- 15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.
- 16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,
- 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

### **Mark 1:9-11**

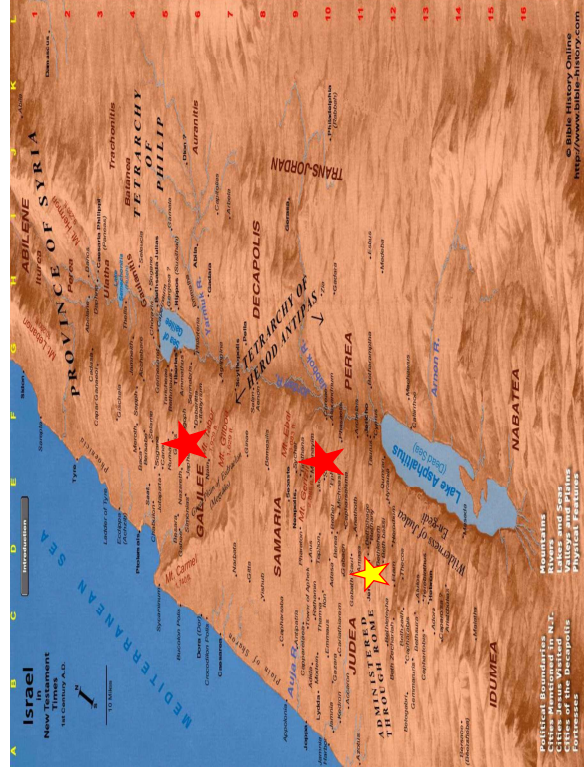
- 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- 10 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him;
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### **Num 4:1-4**

- 1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- 2 "Take a census of the descendants of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families, by their fathers' households,
- 3 from **thirty years** and upward, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tent of meeting.

## Num 8:5-21

- 5 Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
- 6 "Take the Levites from among the sons of Israel and cleanse them.
- 7 "Thus you shall do to them, for their cleansing: sprinkle purifying **water** on them, and let them use a razor over their whole body and wash their clothes, and they will be clean.
- 8 "Then let them take a bull with its grain offering, fine flour mixed with oil; and a second bull you shall take for a sin offering.
- 9 **"So you shall present the Levites before the tent of meeting. You shall also assemble the whole congregation of the sons of Israel, and present the Levites before the Lord; and the sons of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites.**
- 11 "Aaron then shall present the Levites before the Lord as a wave offering from the sons of Israel, that they may **qualify to perform the service of the Lord.**
- 12 "Now the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the bulls; then offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering to the Lord, to make atonement for the Levites.

## Reasons given for the baptism of Jesus:

- Jesus asked for baptism because His mother and brothers wanted Him to.
- Jesus was just an ordinary man, sinful like every other man. At His baptism he was endowed with deity. His baptism was therefore necessary to purify Him and make Him suitable to become divine.
- Jesus wanted to identify Himself with the Gentiles, who were initiated into Judaism as proselytes by the act of baptism.
- Jesus' recognition and endorsement of John's authority, His accrediting of John as a true prophet of God and the genuine forerunner of His own ministry.
- Jesus intended to be baptized vicariously for the sins of mankind, making His baptism, along with His atoning death on the cross, a part of His sin-bearing, redemptive work.
- Jesus was identifying with the people being baptized.

## 21 Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, Luke likes to show the prayer life of Jesus:

- at His baptism (3:21)
- at the selection of the twelve apostles (6:12).
- at Peter's confession (9:18).
- at the transfiguration (9:28).
- in Gethsemane (22:41).
- on the cross (23:34).
- Jesus went repeatedly to the wilderness to pray (5:16).
- He spent whole nights in prayer (6:12).

\*Jesus is in perfect communion with the Father. No separation, no alienation, no break, no breach, nothing.

13 "You shall have the Levites stand before Aaron and before his sons so as to present them as a wave offering to the Lord.

14 "Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the sons of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine.

15 "Then after that the Levites may go in to serve the tent of meeting. But you shall cleanse them and present them as a wave offering;

16 for they are wholly given to Me from among the sons of Israel. I have taken them for Myself instead of every first issue of the womb, the firstborn of all the sons of Israel.

17 "For every firstborn among the sons of Israel is Mine, among the men and among the animals; on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for Myself.

18 "But I have taken the Levites instead of every firstborn among the sons of Israel.

19 "I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the sons of Israel, to perform the service of the sons of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement on behalf of the sons of Israel, so that there will be no plague among the sons of Israel by their coming near to the sanctuary."

20 Thus did Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the sons of Israel to the Levites; according to all that the Lord had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so the sons of Israel did to them.

## Numbers 4:1-4; 8:5-20

**Subject:** Levitical ceremony for priest entering public ministry.

**Age:** 30

**Method:** Baptism with water and anointing by the Lord.

### Reasons:

1. Qualify to serve God.
2. Presentation before the people and before God.

## Matt. 3:15

**Subject:** Jesus, our High Priest, entering His public ministry.

**Age:** 30

**Method:** Baptism with water, anointing with the Holy Spirit, and confirmation by God the Father.

### Reasons:

1. Fulfill all righteousness.
2. Presentation before the people and before God.

\*Jesus is obeying the Law and thus fulfilling all righteousness, which will be imputed to us at our salvation.

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- The Holy Spirit descends upon the Son.
- The Son is being baptized.
- The Holy Spirit descended.
- The Father spoke.

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- **Note:** All of the Trinity is involved in this. Strong verse in support of the Trinity.
- Sebelianism/Modalism – God is one and appears at different times as the Father, sometimes as the Son, and other times as the Holy Spirit, but only one at a time. He is not three in one simultaneously.
- Jesus Only/Oneness Pentecostalism – no trinity. Just one manifestation.
- The dove is not so much the shape as the movement.

**Isa 42: 1**

42 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;  
My chosen one in whom My soul delights.  
I have put My Spirit upon Him;

**Acts 10:37,38**

37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed

38 "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power,

**22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."**

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- Jesus Only/Oneness Pentecostalism – no trinity. Just one manifestation.
- The Holy Spirit has always been with the Son. The Son laid aside the use of His divine attributes and therefore was dependent on the Holy Spirit to energize His life and ministry.
- The dove is not so much the shape as the movement of the bodily form.
- “well-pleased” – εὐδοκῆω – to take great pleasure in.
- God is confirming and at the same time endorsing the absolute holy perfection of the one who has just been baptized.