

JESUS IS BAPTISED AND TEMPTED

Quote:

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:16-17

Kingdom of Heaven (Mark above or below Matthew 3)

Refers to the Kingdom of Him who is Enthroned in the Heavens. Occurs 32 times in Matthew, and nowhere else. (Daniel uses “Most High” - ie God himself and “the heavens” interchangeably - see [Dan 4:25-26](#))

Has a Threefold meaning:

1. Primarily it refers to the kingdom into which men may enter through judgment at the appearing of Christ ([Matt 7:21](#)).
2. It is also the power, authority, sovereignty vested in the King. In this sense the Kingdom was in their midst when he was among them in the first century. Shown by the following parallel:
 - “...Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.” ([Matthew 21:9](#))
 - “Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.” ([Mark 11:10](#))
 - “...Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.” ([Luke 19:38](#))
3. The kingdom can also refer to the Gospel message through which men become related to the future order to be established by the King. When it is understood, believed and lived, it establishes a relationship between the king and his subjects. See the following equivalent statements: [Matt 19:29](#) - “my name’s sake”; [Mk 10:29](#) - “my sake and the gospel’s”; [Lk 18:29](#) - “the Kingdom of God’s sake”.

Why Should Jesus Be Baptised?

- John, by Divine command taught the need for baptism. Obedience to it was an obligation for every faithful Israelite. Jesus was therefore also required to submit to this requirement. (see [Matt 3:15](#))
- It was the means designed of God to introduce the ministry of Jesus ([John 1:31-33](#)).
- Baptism requires a person to confess and forsake their sins (of which Christ had none to confess). However it also requires a recognition and disowning of the source of sin (the flesh). Thus Christ submitted to a ritual that spoke of death to flesh, as a basis for a resurrection to newness of life. (See [Romans 6:3-6](#)). Thereby Jesus prefigured his own death by which he declared God to be righteous in condemning flesh to death in Eden ([Gen 2-3](#)).

(Mark above or below Matthew 3)

Bible Marking - Matthew 3

Matthew 3:2 “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” - Diaglott: “The Royal Majesty of the Heavens has approached” or “come nigh”.

Matthew 3:7 - “generation of vipers” - ie - seed of the serpent (**Gen 3:15**). See how Jesus adds to this, in **Matt 23:33** - once they killed the Lord, their condemnation in Gehenna (the fiery judgments that would overtake them in AD70) was imminent.

Matthew 3:9 - “We have Abraham to our father” - An argument they later used (**John 8:33-44**). We become the seed of Abraham by baptism (**Gal 3:26-29**) and going the works of Abraham (**Jn 8:39**).

Matthew 3:10 - See **Matt 7:15-20** - a tree is known by it’s fruit. The nation was symbolised by the fig tree that had leaves (a covering of their own making - **Gen 3:7**), but no fruit, and therefore it would be hewn down and cast into the fire (**Lk 13:7-9; Matt 21:19**).

Temptation in the Wilderness (Mark above or below Matthew 4)

| 1 John 2:16 | The Serpent Thinking Adopted By Eve - Genesis 3:6 | Temptation of Christ Matthew 4/ Luke 4 | Jesus Reply to the Tempter |
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| Lust of the flesh | Saw that the tree was good for food | Command these stones be made bread (Matt 4:3-4; Lk 4:2-4) | Man shall not live by bread only, but by the Word of God - Deut 8:3 |
| Lust of the eye | Pleasant to the eyes | Showed and offered him the kingdoms of the world (Matt 4:8-10; Lk 4:5-8) | The shalt worship the Lord Thy God - Deut 6:13 |
| Pride of life | A tree to be desired to make one wise | Cast thyself down – ie make a dramatic display (Matt 4:5-7; Lk 4:9-12) | Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God - Deut 6:16 |