

The Book of John – 7



Introduction: We have looked at the prologue in **verses 1-14**. In **verse 15**, we find the Word of God documents that John **faithfully** declared the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, “*John **bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.***”

His statement, “*...He that cometh after me **is preferred before me: for he was before me.***” alludes to the Word’s eternal existence.

Luke chapter 1:36 tells us, “*And, behold, **thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.***”

And as you read that historical record given to us, you will come to find out that according to the flesh, John the Baptist was born before the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beginning in **verse 19**, we will see the “*record of John...*” the Baptist. As we begin in this section, we will be dealing with **the Witnesses**.

I. Prologue - The Revelation of the Word 1:1-14

A. The Word vs. 1-5, 9-14

1. The **eternality** of the Word. vs. 1a
2. The **co-existence** of the Word. vs. 1b-2
3. The **deity** of the Word. vs. 1c
4. The **Creator God**: the Word. v3
5. The Word is **life** and **the Light**. v4-9
6. The Word was **not recognized by the World**. v10
7. The Word was **rejected by His own**. v11
8. The Word is **received by some**. v12-13
9. The Word was **made Flesh**. v14

II. The Chosen _____ of the Word 1:19-4:54

A. John the Baptist

John the Baptist is introduced to us back in **verse 6**.

John 1:6 states, “*There was a man **sent from God**, whose name was John.*”

This is not the penman for the book of John but is rather referred to in other places as John the Baptist, or you might say John the one who baptizes. In the book of Luke, he is even called in one place, simply John Baptist. (**Luke 7:20**)

This passage teaches us the sacred truth that **He sends all witnesses for Him**. Those who witness for the Lord **have always been sent ones**. Looking through the lens of history, you find this to be true. It dovetails with the truth that our Lord and Savior will never leave us or forsake us. We, of course, can make the distinction that we are witnesses in this dispensation. In other words, we are to witness, as we will see in a moment, what has been committed to us.

The truth for you and me today is that **we are sent ones** according to the commission given to us in **Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:48-49, John 20:21, and Acts 1:8**.

Some may think:

Who gives you the right to tell me I must make a decision concerning the Lord Jesus Christ?

Who gives you the right to declare to me that all men are sinners and are separated from God?

Who gives you the right to declare that there is only one way to be saved, and that is repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

The answer is...the highest authority, Almighty God.

Verse 7 tells us, “*The same **came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.***”

This is the purpose of **every witness** for the Lord. It is a malady of the Christian to get lost in the mire of this world and forget his highest purpose.

There are many purposes that we may involve ourselves in. And yea, there are many purposes that we involve ourselves in. All of these purposes are not bad things necessarily in of themselves. However, **our highest purpose, or priority**, is to be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible says concerning John that **his purpose was to be a witness**.

Now, what was he to be a witness of? Or rather, we should say it this way, Who was He to be a witness of?

The Word of God answers this question as well. **John was to bear witness of the Light.** In bearing witness of the Light, he would be **preparing the way of the Lord.** In **Isaiah chapter 40**, as well as quoted by John himself in this chapter, we see the summary of John's testimony.

Isaiah 40:3-5

“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, And every mountain and hill shall be made low: And the crooked shall be made straight, And the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together: For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

In **verse 23** of our text, we see that John himself understood this to be speaking about him, for he states in response to the questioning of the religious leaders, **v23 “He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.”**

You'll notice the **humility** and the **passion** of John's preaching in this statement.

There is a further lesson for us in this understanding: by *“preparing the way of the Lord,”* John was bearing “witness to the Light.” In **Luke chapter 3**, we find more details concerning the words of His message. The lesson for us is this: **the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ necessarily begins with bad news.**

In our commission, we are not just telling people **who the Lord Jesus Christ is**, although that is the primary part of the Gospel. We are also **telling folks why the Lord Jesus Christ came** and **what the Lord Jesus Christ has done.**

John foretold the **coming Savior** and announced His arrival and what He would do. He prepared the people for His arrival. We speak to folks of the necessity of His coming. We tell folks that all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that Jesus the Christ is God and Savior. We speak about **repentance toward God** and the necessity of **receiving the Lord Jesus Christ** (faith in the Lord Jesus Christ **Acts 20:21**).

In this, too, we bear “witness to the Light.”

Let's begin by reading verses **19-28**.

Notice with me first of all:

The Jews sent _____ and _____ to question John.

Undoubtedly, the "Jews" are the religious rulers, for they sent two categories of folks to question John. They sent Priests and Levites. Not all Levites were priests. But all priests were Levites from the tribe of Levi.

The Bible tells us in **Matthew 3:5** that John's fame was great. Notice what the Bible says concerning him, *"Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,"*

In the book of Luke, we find in an exchange concerning John the Baptist and discover that all men regarded John as a prophet. **Luke 20:4-6** *"The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not? But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that **John was a prophet.**"*

The Lord Himself, speaking about John the Baptist, testified to Him being a prophet and said that he was more than a prophet. **Matthew 11:9** *"But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and **more than a prophet.**"*

I am reminded of the slippery temptation of pride that comes to those who proclaim the truth in the power of God. For we find these words in **I Timothy 3:6** concerning the office of a Pastor, *"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."* John's response reveals the solution to not being lifted up in spiritual pride. It is a proper recognition of who we are before God. Over and over again in the Scriptures, we see that man's flesh will quickly turn from the One True Living God and fall into idolatry. What we find next is very helpful and instructive.

In verse 19, the Bible says, *"And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, **Who art thou?**"*

I want to leave you with this phrase...and I want you to ponder it and think about it.

We need to answer this soul-searching question... Who are you?