

“IDENTIFICATION”

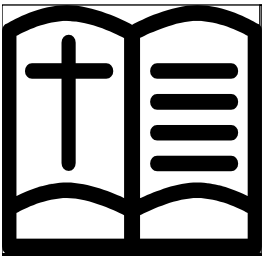
Mk 1:9-13; Mat 3:13-4:11; Luk 3:21-23, 4:1-13

I. THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

A. Understanding John’s ministry

1. *To introduce Messiah to Israel*
2. *To prepare the people to receive that Messiah preparing the way before Him*
3. *To call the people to repent of their view of the Messiah and of their relationship to God through the covenant broken by sin*
4. *Did John understand his ministry and the ramifications of it? What was John expecting? Jesus said John WAS “Elijah” if the people had only believed him. Yet John said he WAS NOT that Elijah. He tried to prevent Jesus from coming to him for baptism. Later, while in prison, John sent his disciples to question Jesus about proof He was the Messiah*
5. *John had been told of the sign God would give Him to recognize the Messiah*
6. *John knew that his ministry was subservient to that of the Messiah and he made no pretense to his greatness John 3:22-36*
7. *John’s baptism was a baptism into the Messiah and a separation from the old ways of living the law Analogy: Israel at the Red Sea*

B. Jesus baptism is NOT for the remission of His sins, for He had none to remit, but for identification



with the company of those who believed in Him as Messiah even though they had not seen Him yet. Compare this with Heb 2:9-18 He is identifying with the people who will be in union with Him. He is like them

- C. Jesus is identifying with disobedient Israel in order to live before God the obedient life they should have lived. This makes Jesus the living human substitute for both Adam and the human race which was after his kind and Israel His beloved wife who had so betrayed Him*
- D. God is imputing the disobedience and sin of these two parties to righteous, obedient, faithful Jesus; Jesus is willingly receiving it. God then imputes the obedience of Christ on those two sinful groups in order to justify the ones who will receive this gift of God*

II. THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

- A. Just as Israel had gone into the wilderness to be tested by God there, so too, Jesus was driven into the wilderness to be tested. He is taking the place of disobedient Israel to pass the test in their behalf*
- B. It seems that the tool God uses to test anyone is the satan.*
- C. Like Israel in the wilderness, the wilderness is a bleak supplier of provisions for life. Israel complained; Jesus did not (He is passing the test of faith for us)*
- D. Satan tempts Him to use his power, authority, and position to gain for Himself dominion without suffering, care for His person apart from God, and to test His Father's care for Him. He used faith for us!*