

## **“Declaring the Son of God”**

### **John 1: 31-34**

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Joh 1:31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Joh 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

Joh 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Joh 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Outline:

1. The Great Purpose (verse 31)

2. The Great Provision (verses 32-33)

3. The Great Pronouncement (verse 34)

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#### **1. The Great Purpose (verse 31)**

Joh 1:31 And I knew him not: **but that he should be made manifest to Israel**, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

In which we see –

The Person – The Priority – The People

I – The Person – “**but that he**”

Again, as we have said already, the ministry of John the Baptist was consumed with and by the person of Christ!

**Joh 3:30 He must increase, but I *must* decrease.**

## II – The Priority – “**should be made manifest**”

Compare -

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

## III – The People - “**to Israel**”

Though, as often is the case, there was exceptions!

Compare –

### **Matthew 15: 21-28**

Thomas Brooks – In “Heaven on Earth” – page 89 –

“Christ puts her off at first—but gives in to her at last; at first a good word, a good look is too good for her—but at last good words and good looks are too little for her: "Be it unto you, even as you will."

At first Christ carries himself to her as a churlish stranger—but at last as an amorous lover.

Though at first he had not an ear to hear her, yet at last he had a heart to grant her, not only her desires—but even what else she would desire over and above what she had desired.”

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Then we have, in our text, what I am calling –

### **A Subordinate Provision**

Joh 1:31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, **therefore am I come baptizing with water.**

This baptism is subordinate to the greater baptism spoken of in verses 32-33

Note,

John's Baptism is not given much detail in this gospel record!

(Matthew 3 gives that extensive detail)

Q. What were the elements or characteristics of John's baptism as seen in Matthew 3: 1-12?

### 1. The Preaching of Repentance (verses 1-2)

Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

Mat 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

### 2. Preparation (verses 3-4)

Exhorted –

Mat 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Exhibited or Exemplified -

Mat 3:4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

### 3. Penitence (verses 5-6)

Mat 3:5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

Mat 3:6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

### 4. Principles of Genuine Repentance (verses 7-9)

I. Fleeing –

Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

II. Fruit –

Mat 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

III. Fathering -

Mat 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

### 5. Purging (verses 10-12)

Or a separating –

Mat 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

Mat 3:12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

So;

We have considered –

“The Great Purpose”

<h2>2. The Great Provision (verses 32-33)</h2>
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Q. What is the great Provision?

Ans – The blessed Holy Spirit.

**Joh 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.**

**Joh 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.**

Firstly –

A Great Provision in Identifying Christ

Compare –

Mat 3:16 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:

Secondly –

A Great Provision for all those whom he baptizes!

**Read Acts 10: 34-47**

Also:

**1 Cor 12: 3-13**

### **3. The Great Pronouncement (verse 34)**

**Joh 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.**

This is the first of ten references to this title Son of God in John's Gospel –

Joh 1:49 (KJV) Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the **Son of God**; thou art the King of Israel.

Joh 3:18 (KJV) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten **Son of God**.

Joh 5:25 (KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the **Son of God**: and they that hear shall live.

Joh 9:35 (KJV) Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the **Son of God**?

Joh 10:36 (KJV) Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the **Son of God**?

Joh 11:4 (KJV) When Jesus heard *that*, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the **Son of God** might be glorified thereby.

Joh 11:27 (KJV) She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the **Son of God**, which should come into the world.

Joh 19:7 (KJV) The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the **Son of God**.

Joh 20:31 (KJV) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the **Son of God**; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

May God bless his word to our souls.

Amen.