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BIBLE STUDY

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**“SENT TO BEAR WITNESS OF THE LIGHT”**

**John 1:6-17**

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

John, the apostle and author of the Gospel, introduces us to John the Baptist, sent on a mission from God. We see here a man not like the Logos (Word) but a real man. This is a man with a mission from birth. John the Baptist, we know, is no ordinary man. Jesus, Himself, would say of John that there had never been a man born of woman who was greater.

***Matthew 11:11***

***11Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.***

We also know that John's birth was a miracle. His parents were old when they had him, and his father was a high priest in the temple. Zacharias and Elisabeth were from priestly families. We also know that the Holy Ghost entered John while he was yet in his mother's womb, Luke chapter 1. John the Baptist would be spoken of as the promised Elijah spoken of in Malachi, Matthew 11:14. We read very little of John the Baptist's youth. He was sent to the earth for one purpose by God and that was to proclaim the coming of Messiah. His only purpose was to make the way clear for Jesus Christ the Messiah. His message was repent

***John 1:7, "The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe."***

From Isaiah until Malachi the prophets had been prophesying the coming of the Light (Jesus Christ). John the Baptist was to warn that the Light was here. Be ready to receive it. John's one job was to make ready for the Light. John was the climax to all the Old Testament prophets telling of this glorious Light, but we will see that not all believed. The world and the so called pleasures thereof had too much of a hold on the people. John came as a witness to testify about the light of Jesus Christ so that all might believe through him. Though he was the first to bear witness to Christ, he is not to be the last. All Christians have the responsibility to “testify about” him, to declare the truth of Jesus Christ “so that all might believe” in him. That’s the foundation of evangelism and missions.

***John 1:8, "He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light."***

John knew from the beginning that he was not the Light. He was just a messenger running ahead telling people to prepare to receive the Light. We would see that many esteemed the messenger of the Light above the Light. Even when Jesus was questioned by those of the church, they were careful not to say anything bad about John the Baptist.

***John 1:9, "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."***

This is the Light which was applied first in Genesis which gave all matter the power to be. This Light determines whether you have life or not. If you do not have this Light within you, then you have death and not Life. John the Baptist was not himself the light, though many were confused about his identity. As foretold in the Old Testament, John came to testify about the light, the true light, the Son of God.

***John 1:10, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."***

Here again we see that this Light (Jesus Christ the Word) made everything. He was Creator God. The Creator of all the world came to this earth to save His creation, and His creation had no idea who He was. Though the Son created the world, the world did not recognize him.

***John 1:11, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."***

The chosen people (Israelites) whom God had made covenant with, were the very ones who would not receive Him. They had the Scriptures which spoke of His coming, and yet when He came, they rejected Him. Sin blinds people so that they do not know their own Creator. Even his own people, the Jews, those who were waiting for the Messiah, those who should have recognized him, did not receive him.

***John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"***

But to everyone who received him he gave them the right to be children of God. To receive Christ is not like passively receiving a letter in your mailbox. Instead, it means to welcome him (based on his substitutionary atonement), like one welcomes a guest into his home. Those who do so are adopted into the family of God as his children. To believe in Jesus’s name is to believe in his person (who he is) and work (what he has done). Notice, even here, He did not do it for them. They had their own free will. He made it available to them and gave them power to receive it; but they had to, of their own free will, accept it. The secret to becoming sons of God is in believing in His name. It is so simple and yet so many miss out. The power that He gives is the Holy Ghost.

***Acts 1:8***

***8But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.***

The belief cannot be surface either. It must truly be in our heart. Of course, the first believers, including the apostles, were Jews. But by and large, the Jewish leadership and people rejected Jesus during his earthly ministry.

***Acts 2:36-42***

***36Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.***

***37Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?***

***38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

***39For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.***

***40And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.***

***41Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.***

***42And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers***

***John 1:13, "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."***

When someone receives and believes in Jesus is given the free gift of eternal life. They experience a supernatural birth and the impartation of spiritual life and experience what Jesus called being “born again”. This is a spiritual birth not a birth of the flesh.

***John 3:5-6***

***5 "Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.***

***6, That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.***

***7 Marvel not that I say ye must be born again".***

You see, then to be sons of God we must be born of His Spirit, The Holy Spirit of God. If we are never reborn of the Spirit, then we remain flesh; and flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

***I Corinthians 6:9, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?"***

***John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."***

The Word (Jesus Christ) took on the form of flesh and dwelt here on this earth with us. He is called Emmanuel (God with us) in Matthew. His flesh was man (inherited through Mary), His Spirit was God. God is a Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God hovered over Mary and she conceived of the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus took on the flesh of Mary, but was in fact, God within that flesh. The spirit and the body are part of every person. The flesh is made in the image of man, but the spirit within each of us is the image of God (our life). God is a Spirit; and to be His image (likeness), we would have to be spirit. The spirit within is our being that will live eternally in heaven or hell. We will shed this body we dwell in now and will have a new body. This body you live in here on this earth will return to dust from which it came, but the real you will have vacated that body and taken on a new heavenly body. Many who has been declared clinically dead and miraculously revived have experienced leaving their old body. This is exactly what the Scripture teaches. Even Jesus' resurrected body was different than the one that went into the tomb. It was a body because He ate and because the nail prints were there; but in His new body, it was not necessary to open doors. He just appeared. Our spirit dwells in a body while we are here on the earth. Our spirit or our body will control our will. This determines whether we are controlled by God or the lust of the flesh. All grace and truth comes from Jesus.

***1 Corinthians 15:48-52***

***48As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.***

***49And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.***

***50Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.***

***51Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,***

***52In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.***

***John 1:15, "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."***

John the Baptist affirmed the superiority of Jesus. Though Jesus’s ministry came after John’s, he ranks ahead of John because he existed before him. John here is speaking of the eternity of Jesus. Jesus is six months younger than John in the flesh. John is aware that Jesus created John. What confuses people are the different names of Jesus. He did not use the name Jesus, until He came to the earth. Jesus means “Saviour.” He took on that name while He was here on the earth because that was what He was here for. Jesus is called by whatever name describes what He is doing at that time. “Word” (Expressed Thought) was His name in heaven. John keeps reminding the people that he is not Messiah. He tells them Jesus is their “Messiah” (Anointed One).

***John 1:16, "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."***

***John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."***

We must remember here that Jesus is the Word. The Old Testament teaches Jesus just the same as the New Testament. John here is saying, "He has been filling us with His Word since Genesis". Now John is saying Jesus' message of this hour is grace. Even the law came from God, through Moses. Grace and truth are not only from Jesus but through Jesus, as well. Jesus not only brought the truth but is, in fact, He is the Truth.

***John 14:26***

***Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who was the man sent from God?
2. What high praise did Jesus give John the Baptist?
3. Who were John the Baptist's parents?
4. Who would Jesus say John was?
5. What was John the Baptist's mission?
6. When did the Holy Ghost enter John the Baptist?
7. What was John to bear witness of?
8. How long had Messiah been prophesied by prophets?
9. Who was this Light, this Word, this Jesus Christ?
10. Why did He come to this earth?
11. Who were the chosen people of God?
12. They had the Scriptures that spoke of His coming and yet they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Him.
13. As many as received Him, He gave power to be what?
14. Jesus really means what?
15. In verse 13, we learn these are born of what?
16. In I Corinthians, it tells us who will not inherit the kingdom of God?
17. Who does verse 14 say this Word is?
18. What two things was He full of in verse 14?
19. What does Emmanuel mean?
20. Who did Jesus come to first and they would not receive Him?
21. In the flesh, who was the oldest, John or Jesus?
22. John said, "He that cometh after me is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_before me."
23. What fullness had they all already received in verse 16?
24. Who was the law given by?
25. Who brought grace and truth?