

John 1:19-28



<p>Passage: ¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.</p>	
<p>Notable People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John the Baptist – cousin of Jesus (son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, sister of Mary mother of Jesus), baptized for the repentance of sins. • Elijah- a prophet who turned people back to God and was expected to return before the Messiah’s coming (Malachi 4:5) • Prophet – An expected prophet, like Moses, who could also be the Messiah (Deuteronomy 18:15). 	<p>Notable Places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethany – village on the eastern slope of the Mt. of Olives and is about a mile and a half east of Jerusalem. It was the home of Mary & Martha and their brother Lazarus (John 11:1).
<p>Cross References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT Use of the OT: Isaiah 40:3, Deuteronomy 18:15, Malachi 4:5, Matthew 3:3 • Shared Figurative Language: Matthew 11:14, Luke 1:17 • Key Word Usage: Matthew 3:11, John 6:14 	
<p>Key Words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptize (βαπτίζω, baptize) v.25,26,28. To wash, purify, plunge: baptize. • Confessed (ὁμολογέω, homologeo) v.20. To acknowledge or confess • Prophet (προφήτης, prophetes) v.21,23,25. One who speaks for a god, or specifically YHWH, and expounds His will. 	<p>Notable Language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Make straight the way” – v. 23 To make a pathway as to prepare for salvation likely in connection to the Messiah’s arrival. • “Whose sandal I am not worthy to untie” – v. 27 Unworthy to untie sandals as a admission to humility Slaves carried their master’s sandals, John is claiming he is not even worthy to be Christ’s slave.
<p>Notable Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism – A ritual of initiation into a religious community; some religions use blood instead of water. Gentiles were baptized when converting to Judaism, John’s treatment of the Jews indicates he treats Jews and pagans the same, which is unusual. • Messiah – The deliverer and Savior who would rescue His people and usher in a time of prosperity and blessing both spiritually and in Jewish understanding, even politically. 	<p>Before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John’s prologue to his Gospel account giving context to the origin of Jesus as the eternal Logos (or Knowledge) of God who was with God and who is also God (Trinity Doctrine). <p>After:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Testimony of John the Baptist (v.19-34) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ John’s Second Witness (1:29-34) • The First Disciplines of Jesus (1:35-51) • The Wedding at Cana (2:1-12)
<p>Main Idea: The testimony about John the Baptist shows the spiritual climate around Jerusalem at the time. The Jews were clearly looking for God to speak once again to His people and John the Baptist was finally a prophet that was working on behalf of God’s Kingdom. Intrigued, the religious leaders question John seeking to see if he is the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet who was promised. However, John answers them that he is merely the forerunner, the Messiah is coming.</p>	