



## Some Interesting Things About John the Baptist

1. **A Unique Birth Announcement**  
(To his father, Zacharias, the Priest, while offering incense.)  
**Luke 1:5-23**
2. **At a Unique Time**  
When God had not spoken to man for about 400 years.
3. **Given a Unique Name**
  - a. Father – Zacharias – “The Lord Remember”
  - b. Mother – Elizabeth – “The Lord’s Oath”
  - c. Child – John – “The Lord Shows Grace”

**Luke 1:72-23**, “72 To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; 73 The oath which he swore to our father Abraham,”

“God remembered (Zacharias) His holy covenant and the oath (Elizabeth) which he swore to give remissions of sins and the tender mercy (John) of our God!

What a message!
4. **A Unique Introduction**  
**Luke 3:1-14**  
After 400 years of silence, when God speaks. To whom does He speak and where does He speak and what does He say?

### Does He speak to:

- a. The Emperor, Tiberius Caesar?
- b. The Governor, Pontius Pilate?
- c. Any of the three tetrarchs, Phillip, Herod, or Lysanias?

- d. The succeeding High Priest of the Jews, Annas?
- e. The High Priest Rome chose for the Jews, Caiaphas?

### No? Then to whom does He speak?

John the Baptist.

### Where does he speak?

- a. In the palace?
- b. The Governor’s mansion?
- c. The Kings summer houses?
- d. The Temple?

### No? Then where?

In the Wilderness. God does not always speak to the religious leaders, political leaders, the elite, the powerful, the rich. He speaks to a poor prophet in the wilderness who wears strange clothes. This is a grass root’s movement.

### What does God say when He speaks?

He says, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

5. **A Unique Prophecy**  
By an angel to his father – John would be. **Luke 1:13-20**
  - a. **A Promise** – He shall be great in the sight of the Lord.
  - b. **A Purity** – A Nazarite – from the womb.
  - c. **A Presence** – Filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb.
  - d. **A Preacher** – Shall turn many to the Lord.
  - e. **A Position** – Precede as forerunner of the Messiah.
  - f. **A Protégé** – In spirit and power of Elijah.
    - **Malachi 4:5**
    - **Matthew 17:10-12**
    - **John 1:19-21**
6. **A Unique Pre-birth Visitor**  
Elizabeth to Mary. “The mother of **my Lord.**” **Luke 1:41-44**
7. **A Unique Title**  
“The prophet of the Highest.” **Luke 1:76**

**8. A Unique Mission**

“Thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His way and prepare a people for the Lord.”  
**Luke 1:76**

**9. A Unique Attire**

Camel's hair. Leather girdle.  
**Matthew 3:4**

**10. A Unique Diet**

Locust and wild honey.  
**Matthew 3:40**

**11. A Unique Message**

The demand was repentance and the promise was God's salvation. **Isaiah 40:3-10**

**12. A Unique Alternative**

Repent or be chopped down. The demand was repentance, the alternative was judgment.

- a. Salvation is not based on mere:
  - Physical baptism in water. (When they came unrepentant. He would not baptize them.)
  - Ancestry. Being children of Abraham was not sufficient.
    - \* You're a generation of snakes.
- b. It was not the virtue of past generations but present lifestyle that counts.
- c. He wants fruit...not blossoms. (Promises of change.) The tree must bear fruit or be burned.
- d. Notice what he charges people who want to get baptized without repentance. A generation of snakes.
- e. Axe to the root. These proved it:
  - Caesar
  - Pilate
  - Tetrarchs
  - Two High Priests
  - Publicans
  - Soldiers

**13. A Unique Success**

**Mark 1:5**, “And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.”

**14. A Unique Confrontational Approach**

“Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”  
**Matthew 3:7-8**

**15. A Unique Demand for Repentance**

**Luke 3:7-18**

- a. Not useless penance of a pagan church.
- b. Not the selling of indulgences to sin.
- c. What shall we do...practical...demonstrated.
  - **Populace**...Share your food, clothes.

If you are not made generous...a sharer, you have not repented.

Change of mind, lifestyle, value system.

Not vain, “Hail Mary”...repetition. It was practical.

- **Publicans**...be honest, don't overcharge or use your job for covetousness.
- **Police**...don't intimidate (shake), or take bribes but be content.

Repentance has to do with my stewardship, possessions, how much I charge, how content I am.

- Repentance puts things in perspective.
  - \* Gets you to share, be honest, not intimidate.
- Repentance is the stewardship of things.
  - \* Be sharing what I have got.
  - \* Be honest in the way that I get it.
  - \* Be content with what I'm getting.
- Sensitive about other people's needs.
  - \* Who is in need, abused, exploited?
  - \* Not abuse, but help.
  - \* Not intimidate, but protect.
  - \* Not exploit...or overcharge...but look at needs.
- Repentance - It is not conformity to John's dress, diet, or hermit life.
- Checkbook may have more to do with Heaven and Hell than your Hymnbook.
- Live in this world:
  - \* Justly
  - \* Fairly
  - \* Compassionately
  - \* Generously
  - \* Contently
- It changes my attitude toward my wealth, my possessions, those in need. **Luke 19:8**

**16. A Unique Humility**

How John saw himself.

- a. **Matthew 3:13-17**, “13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 **But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?** 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 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: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
- b. **Mark 1:7**, And preached, saying, **There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.”**

- c. **John 3:25-36**, “25 Then there arose a question between *some* of John’s disciples and the Jews about purifying. 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all *men* come to him. 27 John answered and said, **A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. 29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I *must* decrease. 31 He that cometh from above is above all:** he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. 32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. 33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 **For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure *unto him*.** 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”
- d. **Luke 3:15-18**, “15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; 16 John answered, saying unto *them* all, **I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: 17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.** 18 And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.”
- e. **John 1:15-27**, 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. 16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.** 17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. 18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*. 19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? 20 **And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. 21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias?**

And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. 22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? 23 He said, **I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. 24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. 25** And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? 26 John answered them, saying, **I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; 27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe’s latchet I am not worthy to unloose.”**

#### 17. A Unique Self-witness

##### John 1:19-27

- Not the Christ.
- A voice in the wilderness.
- A water baptizer.
- Fulfiller of Isaiah’s prophecy.
- Highway builder.
- Unworthy to tie the Messiah’s shoes.
- Friend of the Bridegroom.

#### 18. A Unique Testimony of 5 Witnesses

- Matthew 3:3** – Fulfiller of **Isaiah 40**.
- Mark 1:2-3** – Fulfiller of **Malachi 3:1**.
- Luke 3:3-5** – Fulfiller of **Isaiah 40**.
- John 1:6-7** – A man sent from God - a light.
- Acts 19:4** – Paul, told of one to come.

#### 19. A Unique Testimony Given by Christ Jesus

- Matthew 11:7-19** – The Elijah to come.
- John 5:32-35** – A burning and shining light.
- Luke 7:27-28** - No greater prophet than John.
- Matthew 17:10-12** – Fulfiller of Malachi 3.