

YOU ARE MY SON!

Luke 3

EVIDENCE OF MESSIAH'S ARRIVAL 1:5-4:13

Evidence Related to His Birth and Childhood 1:5-2:52

Evidence Related to His Presentation to Israel 3:1-4:13

Initial confirmation to the nation that Messiah has come!

Luke's big idea: Messiah has come!

Four major evidences that Jesus is Messiah, derived from His presentation to Israel.

- 1. The forerunner of Messiah 3:1-20 –John's testimony**
- 2. The baptism of Messiah 3:21-22 –God's testimony**
- 3. The genealogy of Messiah 3:23-38**
- 4. The temptation of Messiah 4:1-13**

The evidence is in place; true believers prepare to receive Messiah.

In Luke 3-4, he makes sure we hear the message that **Jesus is God's Son**.

He repeats that **five times**. 3:22; 38

The forerunner of Messiah 3:1-20 –John's testimony

His ministry 3:1-6

After 400 years of silence—since a prophet spoke in Israel.

God's Word returns through John.

John comes to prepare the way for Messiah.

John prepares the way by calling God's people to repentance.

The baptism of repentance looks forward to the forgiveness of their sin.

Since God is about to provide forgiveness of sin,

they identify with the national act of repentance to which John calls His people.

It's because God's salvation is about to be seen.

John testifies that Jesus is Messiah, by calling people's attention to their need to prepare for His coming. 3:1-20

Isa. 40:3-5 *"Make ready the way of Yahweh!"*

John's ministry: to proclaim that message to God's people and prepare the way for the Lord's coming.

His message 3:7-14

John's message is referred to as "Good News" =< "the gospel" 3:18

The "good news" part of his message is found in the preceding summary:

He comes to prepare the way for the coming of Yahweh.

The crooked places are about to be straightened out.

Everyone is about to see God's salvation => JESUS.

THAT'S GOOD NEWS!

Throughout the presentation of this message there's another side, the back side of the good news, that isn't so good. 3:7-9

The negative side of John's ministry:

John demands repentance and change.

But the harsh words are reserved for God's people.

The negative => “the crooked made straight.”

The negative side of Jesus’ ministry:

God’s Son comes with Spirit and fire 3:16

Positive side-Spirit 3:22

His ministry is characterized by the coming of the Spirit.

He’s identified with outpouring of the Spirit Who transforms lives.

Negative side-fire => judgment 3:9, 17

Fire is an agent of God’s judgment.

He’s identified with divine judgment poured out on God’s people.

God won’t sit idly by while His people go on in sin.

Jesus’ coming straightens out crooked lives, by the power of His Spirit.

He uses fire to purge the fruitless lives of God’s people.

The demands on God’s people 3:10-14

Who comes to John concerned? **the masses, tax collectors, soldiers.**

Each comes with a question: **What shall we do?**

[To prepare for Messiah’s coming]

Our faith in God ought to bear fruit in the affairs of life.

Our lifestyle ought to be different from other people.

God requires His people to live by a different standard.

We ought to bear fruit that brings honor to our Master.

Two different results of the process 17

God gathers the wheat.

BUT-God also burns the chaff and cuts down fruitless trees.

His promise 3:15-18

EVERYONE recognized that John was a prophet of God—he was popularly accepted.

John was identified with water baptism—with a baptism of repentance.

BUT, He was NOT the Messiah. **15-16**

He was preparing the way for HIM however.

His promise –**3:16-18**

Jesus would cause them to be identified with the Holy Spirit (= Pentecost)

and with fire (=judgment => A.D. 70)

Acceptance of Him resulted in identification with the Holy Spirit.

Rejection of Him resulted in identification with “fire”—God’s judgment

His confinement 3:19-20

When his ministry becomes a threat to Herod, he’s imprisoned.

At that point Jesus’ role becomes central.

The baptism of Messiah 3:21-22 –God’s testimony

Why should Jesus be baptized by John?

This was a baptism of repentance.

Jesus never sinned—He didn’t need to repent.

That's John's question too! **Matt. 3:13-15**
Jesus' baptism identifies Jesus with John
and it identifies His ministry with John's ministry.

Barclay: "Throughout the whole country there was an unprecedented movement towards God. . . . Jesus knew that His hour had struck. . . . He knew that He too must identify Himself with this movement towards God. For Jesus, the emergence of John was God's call to action; and His first step was to identify Himself with the people in their search for God."

He publicly identifies with what God is doing in their midst.

At His baptism, God affirms His relationship with Jesus and His approval, by the appearance of the Spirit and a heavenly voice.

John's testimony is summarized in **John 1:30-34**.

The whole Trinity is involved.

The Son is baptized; the Spirit descends upon Him; the Father speaks.

The genealogy of Messiah 3:23-38

Jesus' genealogy witnesses to His position as Messiah. 3:23

As a legal descendant of Joseph, David, Judah, Abraham, Adam, and ultimately, of God Himself. **3:23, 31, 33, 34, 38**

Jesus possesses all the essential genealogical qualifications to serve on David's throne as Messiah.

As Son of God and Son of Man, He is both God and man

–the only One qualified to fulfill Old Testament prophecies concerning Messiah.

The evidence is overwhelming.

There's no lack of evidence to convince *anyone* who *wants* to know the truth that Jesus is Messiah.

The temptation of Messiah 4:1-13

LESSONS FOR US:

If John were to come preach in our city, to whom would he preach?

How would he answer our question: "What shall WE do?"

If Jesus were to return today, what would WE have to do to prepare the way for His coming in OUR life?

When He comes again, He won't be announced this time.

Will WE be ready?

That was Israel's question too.

What's sad is that Israel didn't realize that God is always with us!

They weren't ready to change a thing.

They *enjoyed* their lifestyle!

John came to prepare the way for the Savior's coming.

Are WE ready for His return?