

9. **Elijah** (1 Ki 17:1) Elijah was a _____ and was from _____. Tishbeh was a city in Gilead. His appearance was similar to that of John the Baptist in the NT. (2 Ki 1:8) “*He was an _____ man, and girt with a _____ of _____ about his _____.*”
10. **The Prophet In Israel** He prophesied during the reign of Ahab and became very despondent over the Israelites. (1 Ki 19:10) “*The children of Israel have _____ thy _____, thrown down thine _____, and _____ thy _____ with the _____; and I, even _____, am left; and they _____, to take it away.*” God reassured him. (V18) “*Yet I have _____ me _____ thousand in Israel, all the knees which _____ unto _____.*” There is a lesson here for us. Forget self-pity. Others endure. So can you!
11. **John Prophesied & Preached In Judea** (Mt 3:1) “*In those _____ came John the Baptist, _____ in the _____ of Judaea.*” He was a powerful exhorter. (V5-6) “*Then went out to him _____, and all _____, and all the region _____, and were _____ of him in Jordan, _____ their _____.*”
12. **John Baptized All Converts** (Mt 3:11) “*I indeed _____ you with _____ unto _____.*” (Mk 1:4) “*John did baptize in the wilderness, and _____ the _____ of _____ for the _____ of _____.*”
13. **John’s Baptism Was Necessary & Valid Until After Both He And Jesus Died** (a) It wasn’t to attain church membership. Jesus didn’t even promise to build his church until after John died. (b) It wasn’t to grant immediate forgiveness of sins because Jesus would have to first die on the cross and shed his blood. Did John die on the cross for our sins? ____ Who did? _____
14. **Its Temporary Purpose** John’s baptism was to prepare receptive Jews for induction into the impending (Jn 3:1-5; Eph 5:5) kingdom of _____. Once the NT Church was established on Pentecost Day (Acts 2) it would no longer be needed. Then the baptism Jesus commanded in the Great Commission would become valid (Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16; Lk 24:46-47).
15. **Its Preparatory Nature** Isaiah’s prophecy (Isa 40) is quoted by Luke. (Lk 3:4) “*As it is written in the _____ of the _____ of _____ the _____, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, _____ ye the way of the Lord.*” John’s baptism was preparatory “unto” the actual fact of remission of sins, while baptism from Pentecost onward was “into” Jesus Christ (Gal 3:27) and “into” the Savior’s death when His blood was shed (Jn 19:33-34; Rom 6:3-4).
16. **Additional Proof That John’s Baptism Was Temporary** Paul was converted to Christ some years after the NT Church was established. In his later ministry he (Acts 19:1) “*passed through the upper coasts*” and “*came to _____.*” There he found _____. He asked them (V3), “*Unto _____ then _____?*” They replied, “*Unto _____ baptism.*” Paul told them that John’s baptism was no longer valid. Aquilla and Priscilla (Acts 18:24-26) taught _____ this same truth. These disciples (V5) “*were _____ in the _____ the Lord _____.*”
17. **John Was The Best Man – Jesus Was The Bridegroom** (Jn 3:28-30) John the Baptist said, “*I am not the Christ, but that _____.*” The NT Church is (Rev 21:9) “*the _____, the Lamb’s _____.*” John identified Jesus as (Jn 1:29) “*the _____ of God.*” He also said (3:29), “*He that _____ the _____ is the bridegroom.*” John added (V29-30), “*my joy therefore _____.* *He must increase, but _____.*” John’s statements show the temporary nature of his ministry and baptism, also that the bride would wear Christ’s name.
18. **Summation** God’s scheme of redemption for mankind always involved Jesus. (Eph 3:11) “*According to the _____ which he purposed in _____ our Lord.*” God’s people grew from individuals and clans to become a nation. It was like bits of a puzzle being put together. The picture became clearer with John’s ministry and complete in the confirmed NT Church.