

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

334 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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JOHN THE BAPTIST – PART II

The Baptism Of John

- The Jews** The remaining Southern Kingdom of the previously divided Jews was carried away into the Babylonian captivity 600-odd years B. C. By the time of John’s ministry they were still numerous, but splintered religiously, despising their subservient status to Rome and longing for a return to the solidarity they had known as a sovereign nation six centuries earlier. John’s clear message: (Mt 3:2) “*Repent _____, for the _____ of _____ is at _____.*”
- Prospect Of A New Jewish Kingdom?** Surely news of an impending kingdom would be a source of extreme joy to any Jew. In fact, (V5) there “*went out to him _____, and _____ Judaea, and all the _____ round about _____.*” Many of them enthusiastically received (V6) John’s message “*and were _____ of him in Jordan, _____ their _____.*”
- It Was A Preparation** These penitent Jews would be the “ground floor” of the NT Church when it would shortly (Mk 9:1) “*come with _____.*” They had to be “made ready” by (a) repenting and (b) receiving the baptism administered by John which was (Mk 1:4; Lk 3:3) “*the _____ of _____ for the remission of sins.*”
- Who Could Remit Sins?** We know that (Mt 9:6; Mk 2:10) only Jesus “*hath _____ on earth to _____ sins.*” Roman Catholicism avows under Power of the Keys that their pope and priests have power to remit sins on earth. In fact, under Sacrament of Penitence we quote: “*A sacrament of the New Law instituted by Christ in which forgiveness of sins committed after baptism is granted through the priest’s absolution to those who with true sorrow confess their sins and promise to satisfy for the same.*”
- Could John The Baptist Remit Sins?** Absolutely not! Nor can any man! It is plain that (1 Jn 4:14) “*the _____ sent the _____ to be the _____ of the world.*” We find these words in the opening verse of the grand old hymn: “*What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*” **John didn’t die for us.** Jesus is (1 Tim 2:5) “*the _____ between _____ and _____.*”
- It Would Be Jesus, Not John** Caiaphas (Jn 11:49-52) scripturally foretold “*that _____ man should _____ for the people, and that the whole _____ perish not.*” (V51-52) “*He prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation*” – and that “*he should _____ together in _____ the _____ of _____ that were scattered abroad.*”
- When Would These Sins Be Remitted?** The purchase price would have to be paid before any man’s sins could be forgiven. Christians (Eph 1:7-9) are redeemed (ie: bought back) by Jesus, not John, and “*have _____ through his _____, the _____ of sins.*” The (V14) “*redemption of the _____ possession*” is the salvation of (Acts 20:28) “*the _____ of _____, which _____ hath _____ with his own _____.*”