

8. **When?** It could not be before Jesus [not John] (Phil 2:8) “_____ himself, and became obedient unto _____, even the _____ of the _____.” It could not be before the new covenant replaced the old one. Jesus (Heb 9:15-16) “is the _____ of the _____ testament.” How? “By _____ of death.” This indicates his death on the cross. Why? “For the _____ of the _____ that were under the _____ testament.” This means that every human since Adam, that lived and died faithful to God, regardless of what bygone covenant they lived under (including the Jews that received John’s baptism), would be saved only by the shed blood of Jesus.
9. **More** It would happen when Jesus’ *last will and testament* (ie: the New Testament) was probated. The word probate simply means *the judicial determination of the validity of a will*. The Apostles were the executors, meaning they were *appointed by the testator* (ie: Jesus) *to execute his will*. They did this (Acts 2) on the first Pentecost after Jesus’ death. At this time the faithful Jews, including the Apostles themselves, by virtue of their repentance and acceptance of the baptism of John, were “set in” as the ground-floor of the NT Church. It follows (Acts 2:46-47) that these brand-new church members were (Acts 2:46) “*continuing _____ with _____ accord*” and that “*the Lord _____ to the _____ daily such as should be _____.*”
10. **Back To John** On one occasion (Lk 7:19), “*John calling unto him _____ of his disciples _____ them to _____, saying, Art thou _____ that should _____? or look we for _____?*” This was a sincere inquiry. They came to Jesus and watched him perform many miracles. Jesus told them: (V22) “*Go your way, and _____ John what things ye have _____ and _____.*” Interestingly (Mt 16:13-14) Jesus asked his disciples, “*Whom do _____ say that I the _____ of _____ am?*” Their reply: “*Some _____ that thou art _____ the _____.*”
11. **More On How Jesus Perceived John** Continuing in (Lk 7) we find Jesus asking, “*What went ye out into the _____ for to _____? A _____ shaken with the wind? --A man _____ in _____ raiment?*” Jesus was making a poignant observation. He mentions “*they which are _____ apparelled and live _____*” as being “*in _____ courts.*” We believe there is a lesson here for those who want socially conscious preachers who live a soft life and preach soft sermons. Jesus asks: “*But what _____ out for to _____? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and _____ than a prophet.*” Jesus cites Scripture saying, “*I send my _____ before thy face, which shall _____ before thee.*” He insisted that John was a very special prophet: “*Among those that are _____ of _____ there is not a _____ prophet than John the Baptist.*” Why? While never in the kingdom, John was the preparer for it its advent.
12. **Why A Re-Baptism?** Why were the Ephesians (Acts 19:1-5), who had received (V3) “*John’s _____,*” re-immersed if John’s baptism was adequate and essential for all the obedient Jews to be “set into” the NT Church (ie: the spiritual kingdom of Christ) on Pentecost Day (Acts 2)? Answer: This happened long after Pentecost (Acts 2). Paul succinctly explained: (V4) “*John verily baptized with the _____ of _____, saying unto the people, that they should _____ on him which should _____, that is, on Christ Jesus.*”
13. **Pertinent Facts** John’s baptism was only valid until the kingdom (ie: NT Church) was established. It was to prepare the obedient Jews for induction into it. The blood of Jesus was shed preparatory to the birth of the Church and applied from Pentecost Day (Acts 2) onward. The command (Acts 2:38) to “*repent, and be baptized _____ of _____ in the name of Jesus Christ _____ the _____ of _____*” has been in effect every since. That’s why Apollos, (Acts 18:25) who knew “*_____ the baptism of John,*” had to be taught (V26) “*the _____ of _____ more _____.*”
14. **Summation** John was executed at a premature age because he refused to soft-peddle the truth. He definitely was no “*reed shaken in the wind.*” Jesus has no use for soft, overly sensitive, religiously-correct preachers. John the Baptizer is our Lord’s model for every gospel preacher.