

Introduction

1. Matthew now looks at the life of Christ about 30 years later.
 - a. In Luke 3 we note the 15th year of Tiberius.
 - b. This would be about 28 years after events in Matthew 2.
2. John the baptizer, the forerunner of Christ and his message.
 - a. Relationship between John and Jesus.
 - b. *“He must increase, but I must decrease”* (John 3:30).
3. Jesus was baptized by John for an excellent purpose.
4. God speaks from heaven – *“this is my beloved Son...”*



Select Verses

3:1-2 ~ *“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ⁽²⁾ And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

3:8 ~ *“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”*

3:11 ~ *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”*

3:13 ~ *“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.”*

3:15 ~ *“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.”*

3:17 ~ *“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

Select Thoughts / Themes

1. Examine the Old Testament references which confirm the authenticity of the New Testament –
 - cf. 3:3 with Isaiah 40:3.



Author – Matthew
Date – 58-60 AD

Chapter 3 of 260
in the New Testament

2. Why did John call the Pharisees and Sadducees “*vipers*”?
 - a. Likely to what type of snake was he referring?
 - b. What did John mean when he called upon them to “*Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance*”?
3. How many types of baptisms are mentioned in Scripture?
4. John hesitated to baptized Jesus at first, but then did what the Saviour asked him to do.
5. In your own words, why was Jesus baptized (since He was without sin, Heb. 4:15)?



To Consider Further...

1. Detail and define the words spoken by Almighty God at the baptism of His Son:
 - a. His Son
 - b. Beloved
 - c. Well pleased
2. Why would John hesitate to baptize Jesus?
3. Is it acceptable or wrong for Christians today to identify others as enemies of the cross, sinful, teachers of false doctrines, etc.?
4. What role did John the immerser have in relation to Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
5. Can we imagine and work toward our Father saying to us in judgment that we are His child and He is well pleased with us? Itemize a few aspects of our life that are essential for our Father to speak these words of us.