


John The Baptist: The Greatest Prophet of the Old Covenant

Luke 7:24 - 35


Presented by Bob DeWaay
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John The Baptist was a prophet proclaiming God's Word in the wilderness

■ **Luke 7:24**

And when the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the multitudes about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?"



Princes are not found in the wilderness

■ **Luke 7:25**

"But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are splendidly clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces."



John was not just “a” prophet

■ **Luke 7:26**

“But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.”



John was the prophet predicted in
Malachi 3:1

■ **Luke 7:27**

“This is the one about whom it is written,
‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your
face, Who will prepare Your way before
You.’”



This role was predicted by the angel

■ **Luke 1:16, 17**

And he will turn back many of the sons of
Israel to the Lord their God. And it is he who
will go as a forerunner before Him in the
spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts
of the fathers back to the children, and the
disobedient to the attitude of the righteous;
so as to make ready a people prepared for
the Lord.



John has the status of other Old Covenant prophets but is the greatest

■ **Luke 7:28**

"I say to you, among those born of women, there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."



OT prophets did not see the inception of the Messianic Kingdom

■ **Luke 10:23, 24**

And turning to the disciples, He said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them."



OT prophets did not see the inception of the Messianic Kingdom

■ **1Peter 1:10, 11**

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.



Why the “least in the kingdom” have better status than the greatest prophet

■ **1Peter 1:12**

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look.



Those who repented “justified God”

■ **Luke 7:29** (NKJV)

And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.



The common people saw themselves as sinners but the leaders would not

■ **Luke 7:30**

But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.



The rebellious leadership is fickle

■ Luke 7:31, 32

To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another; and they say, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep."



They reject God's message

■ Luke 7:33, 34

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, "He has a demon!" The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, "Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!"



Those who repent "justify" God's message

■ Luke 7:35 (NKJV)

"But wisdom is justified by all her children."



Luke's chiastic structure shows his meaning

Verse 29

All the people who heard this . . . Justified God

Verse 35

Wisdom is justified by . . . All her children



Applications

- 1) Being a citizen of the kingdom is the greatest status we could ask for
- 2) We should respond to God's revealed purpose and repent
- 3) If we have repented we should not fear the reproach of men



- 1) Being a citizen of the kingdom is the greatest status we could ask for

■ **Luke 10:20**

Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.



- 1) Being a citizen of the kingdom is the greatest status we could ask for

■ **Ephesians 3:8**

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,



- 2) We should respond to God's revealed purpose and repent

■ **Luke 15:7**

I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.



- 2) We should respond to God's revealed purpose and repent

■ **Act 17:30**

Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,



3) If we have repented we should not fear the reproach of men

■ **Hebrews 11:24, 25**

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin;



3) If we have repented we should not fear the reproach of men

■ **Hebrews 11:26**

considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.