



# John's Ministry

Luke 3:1-18



BLUE LETTER BIBLE

### **The Baptism of Christ**

Ministry of John the Baptist

**Matt.**

3:1-12

**Mark**

1:1-8

**Luke**

3:1-18

**John**

1:15-31

Baptism of Jesus Christ

3:13-17

1:9-11

3:21-22

1:32-34

### **The Temptation of Christ**

The temptation

4:1-11

1:12-13

4:1-13

### **The Early Ministry of Christ**

Andrew and another disciple and Simon

1:35-42

Peter

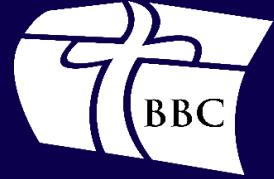
Philip and Nathanael

1:43-51

The marriage in Cana of Galilee

2:1-11

**Baptism of Repentance**  
**The Christ**  
**Wrath to Come**  
**Ethical Behavior**  
**Baptism of Holy Spirit and Fire**



# Luke 3:1-2

•In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,<sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, **the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.**



# Luke 3:3

- And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**



# What is this baptism of repentance?

For the  
**Forgiveness of Sins**

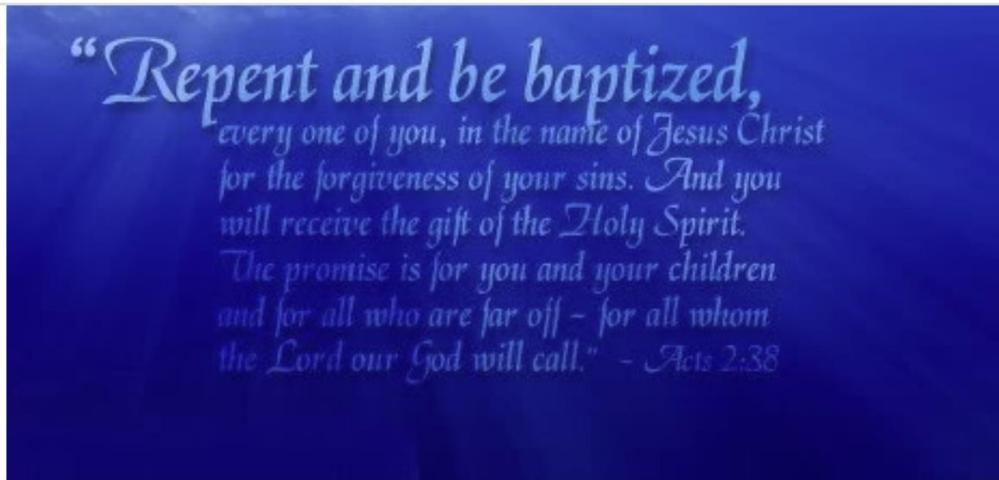
# **Each person being baptized by John:**

- **Believed in YHWH**
- **Understood they were sinners and needed forgiveness**
- **Desired to change their behavior such that they were more pleasing to YHWH**
- **Publicly communicated all this when they were baptized**



# Luke 3:3

- And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**



## What is the Remission of Sins?

The term “remission” (Gk. *aphesis*) does not refer to “forgiveness” but is closer to “liberty” or “freedom” (cf. Luke 3:3; 4:18-19; 25:47).

The image shows the Blue Letter Bible website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'HELP', 'QUICKNAV', 'ADV. OPTIONS', 'Verse or Word(s)', 'KJV' (with a dropdown menu), 'RETURN TO TOP', 'LINK', 'CITE THIS', 'SHARE', 'FOLLOW', and 'PRINT'. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for 'COPY', 'COPY OPTIONS', 'STRONG'S', 'RED-LETTER', and arrows for navigation. The main content area displays the KJV translation of Strong's G859, which is 'remission' (9x), 'forgiveness' (6x), 'deliverance' (1x), and 'liberty' (1x). There is also an 'Outline of Biblical Usage' section with two items: 'release from bondage or imprisonment' and 'forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty'. Below this is a section for 'Strong's Definitions' with the entry for 'ἀφεσις' (ἀφεσις, af'-es-is; from G863; freedom; (figuratively) pardon:—deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission). There is also a 'Thayer's Greek Lexicon' section with the entry for 'ἀφεσις' (ἀφεσις, -εως, ή, (ἀφίημι); 1. release, as from bondage, imprisonment, etc.: Luke 4:18 (Luke 4:19) (Isaiah 61:1f; Polybius 1, 79, 12, etc.). 2. ἀφεσις ἀμαρτιῶν forgiveness, pardon, of sins (properly, the letting them go, as if they had not been committed [see at length Trench, § xxxiii.]), remission of their penalty: Matthew 26:28; Mark 1:4; Luke 1:77; Luke 3:3; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; Acts 5:31; Acts 10:43; Acts 13:38; Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:14; τῶν παραπτωμάτων, Ephesians 1:7; and simply ἀφεσις: Mark 3:29; Hebrews 9:22;').



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The Jews believed  
YHWH forgave sins.

Psalm 130:4

## Psalm 130:1–4

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! <sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! <sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> **But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

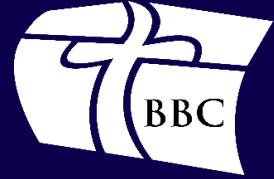


# Exodus 32:32

•But now, if you will forgive their sin – but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.”

**It seems John's baptism was providing  
forgiveness of sins, but what he was  
not promising was eternal life or the  
imputation of righteousness.**

**That would come through the Christ.**



# Luke 3:4

- As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

**This is a compilation of things  
Isaiah said put together.**

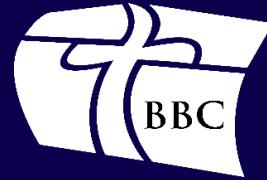
**“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths  
straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every  
mountain and hill shall be made low, and the  
crooked shall become straight, and the rough  
places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh  
shall see the salvation of God.’ ”**



**What is the point of  
this compilation of  
verses from Isaiah?**



Turn Over to  
John 1

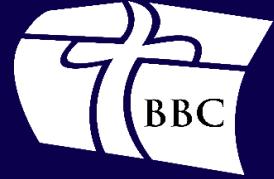


# Luke 3:7

•He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers!

3:7 vipers. A general term for any of a number of poisonous snakes in Israel, **showing that the people had become the seed of the Serpent (Gen. 3:15)**. Who warned you to flee ...? ...? I.e., “Who has told you to flee the coming wrath by merely submitting to a rite of baptism?”

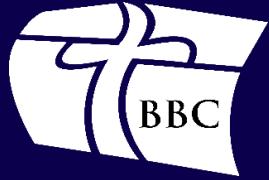
[The ESV Study Bible](#)



# Luke 3:7

•Who warned you to flee  
from the wrath to come?

**What wrath to come?**



**Luke 3:8**

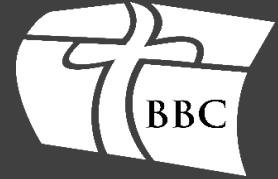
•Bear fruits in keeping  
with repentance.

**What a challenge.**

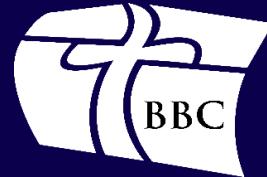
**True Repentance is always  
characterized by a change in ethical  
and moral behavior.**

**Give evidence that your conversion is  
legit.**

# John 15:8



•By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.



# Luke 3:8

•And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘**We have Abraham as our father.**’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.



# Luke 3:9

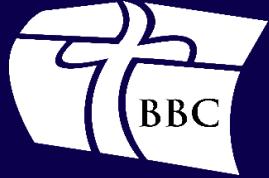
- Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees.
- Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

**1<sup>st</sup> of 3 references to fire.**



# Turn Over To John 15:1-6

**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.**



# Luke 3:10

•And the crowds asked him, “**What then shall we do?**”





# Turn Over To

## Luke 18:18ff

<sup>18</sup> And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’ ” <sup>21</sup> And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” <sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”



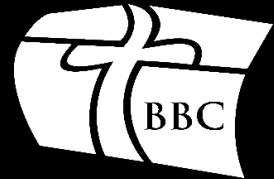
# Turn Over To

## John 6:28-29

**28 Then they said to him, “What must we do,  
to be doing the works of God?”**

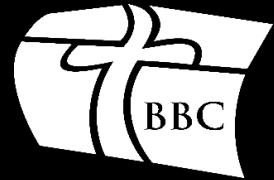
**29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of  
God, that you believe in him whom he has  
sent.”**

# Acts 2:37-38



•Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “**Brothers, what shall we do?**” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

# Acts 16:30-31



•Then he brought them out and said,  
**“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”** 31  
And they said, **“Believe in the Lord  
Jesus, and you will be saved, you and  
your household.”**



# Turn Back To

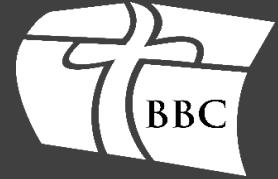
## Luke 3:11-14

# This is vintage Social Gospel



# Luke 3:11

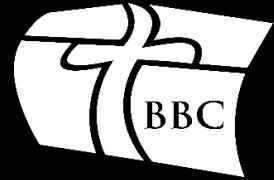
•And he answered them, “**Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.**”



# Deuteronomy 15:11

•For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’

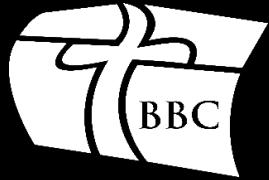
# Luke 12:33



## Jesus...

•**Sell your possessions, and give to the needy.** Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

# Ephesians 4:28



- Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands,

**[WHY]** so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.



# Luke 3:12

- Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”



# Luke 3:13

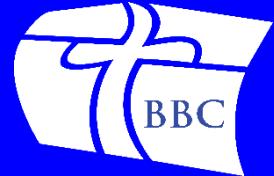
- And he said to them, “**Collect no more than you are authorized to do.**”



# Luke 3:14

- Soldiers also asked him, “**And we, what shall we do?**”
- And he said to them, “**Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.**”

What do all three  
examples have in  
common?



# Is John the Christ?

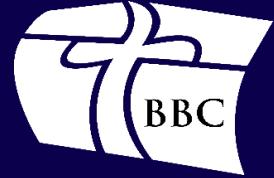
Do we understand  
what they were asking?



# Luke 3:15

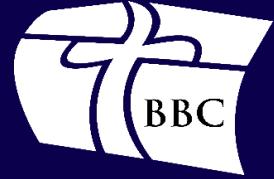
• As the people were in expectation,  
and all were questioning in their hearts  
concerning John, whether he might be  
the Christ,

Why?



# Luke 3:16

•John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**



# Luke 3:17

•His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



# Luke 3:18

- So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.