

10-2017

## The Forerunner of Jesus Christ: John the Baptist

Harold Willmington

*Liberty University*, [hwillmington@liberty.edu](mailto:hwillmington@liberty.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second\\_person](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second_person)



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), [Practical Theology Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "The Forerunner of Jesus Christ: John the Baptist" (2017). *The Second Person File*. 7. [https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second\\_person/7](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second_person/7)

This The Early Ministry of Jesus Christ is brought to you for free and open access by the Theological Studies at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Second Person File by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact [scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu](mailto:scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu).

## THE FORERUNNER OF JESUS CHRIST: JOHN THE BAPTIST

*“But the angel said to him, Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John” (Luke 1:13).*

- The maturing of John

*“So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel” (John 1:80).*

- The message of John

*“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight’” (Matt. 3:1-3).*

- The ministry of John

*“John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins” (Mark 1:4, 5).*

- The mantle of John

*“Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6).*

- The misunderstanding concerning John

*“Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, ‘I am not the Christ.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ And he answered, No. He said: ‘I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the LORD,’ as the prophet Isaiah said” (John 1:19-21, 23).*

- The Messiah introduced by John

*“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:17, 29).*

- The attempted muzzling of John

*“For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife. Because John had said to him, ‘It is not lawful for you to have her’ ” (Matt. 14:3, 4).*

- The brief misgivings by John

*“And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them’ ” (Matt. 11:2-5).*

- The martyrdom of John

*“But when Herod’s birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, ‘Give me John the Baptist’s head here on a platter.’ So he sent and had John beheaded in prison” (Matt. 14:6-8, 10).*

- The magnificence of John

1. John’s testimony concerning Jesus

*“He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).*

2. Jesus’ testimony concerning John

*“Among them that are born of woman there hath not arisen a greater than John the Baptist” (Matt 11:11).*