

**Behold the Lamb of God!**  
**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe | John 1:29-34**  
 Southern Hills Baptist Church  
 August 11, 2016

**Introduction:** John the Baptist's mission was to prepare people for Jesus. In our passage tonight John the Baptist recognizes the Messiah for the first time. He encounters this man whom he has been heralding and preparing people for. In this moment John prophetically proclaims the identity and mission of Jesus through 5 descriptions.

**John the Baptist's Prophetic Introduction of Jesus**

**1. The Lamb of God – The Wrath-Bearing Atonement (vs. 29)**

- **Lamb Image 1 – The Passover Lamb – The Exodus Story**
  - God made provision for Jewish families to avoid the final plague of death through the sacrifice and blood of a lamb. The Passover Lamb secured a shielding from the wrath of God (Ex 12:3-6, 12-14)
  - Jesus is our Passover Lamb. He is our wrath-bearer, our propitiation, as He absorbed the punishment that was due us (Rom 2:5; 1 Jn 4:10)
- **Lamb Image 2 – The Sacrificial Lamb – Mosaic Law**
  - Spotless lambs were sacrificed to serve as an atonement for sin (Lev 4:32-35). These sacrifices never truly cured sin, they couldn't (Heb 10:4). They pointed forward to a better sacrifice.
  - Jesus is our better sacrifice, purchasing an eternal atonement, once for all (Heb 10:11-14). He stood in our place to bring healing and peace with God.

**2. The Preeminent One – The Preexistent One (vs. 30)**

- John the Baptist proclaimed the supremacy of Jesus because Jesus was before him. While John the Baptist was born about 6 months before Jesus, he recognizes that Jesus is eternal and thus preeminent.
- When you put your faith in Jesus and follow Him you are never settling for second best. You needn't worry that maybe you jumped the gun and there could be something better in this life for you.

**3. Spirit Indwelt – The Anointed One (vs. 32)**

- After Jesus is baptized the Holy Spirit descends from the Heavens and rests upon Him. This served as confirmation to John the Baptist that Jesus was the Messiah he had been looking for (vs. 33). This was also God's visible stamp of approval on Jesus and His ministry.

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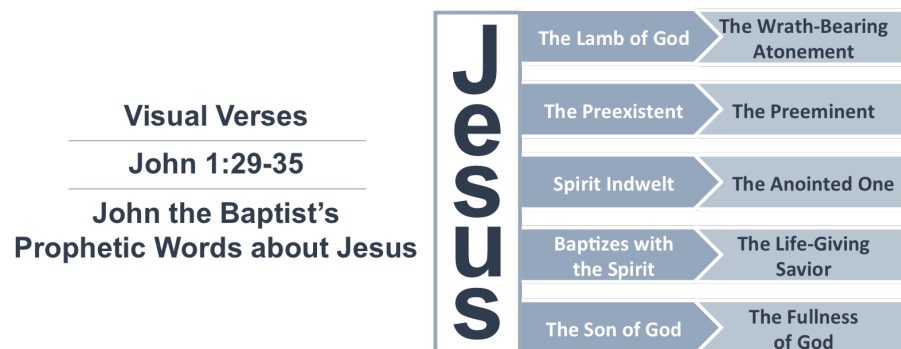
- The dwelling of the Spirit upon Jesus also served as a visible fulfillment of Isaiah 11:1-2, which promised that Jesus' ministry is going to be defined by wisdom and understanding, might, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord.
  - As we continue our study through the book of John, watching Jesus minister to others, listening to Him talk and interact with others, sitting under his teaching, every move He makes, every word He utters is perfect knowledge, wisdom, and godliness personified. Jesus lacked no resource.

**4. Baptizes with the Holy Spirit – The Life-Giving Savior (vs. 33)**

- What does it mean for Jesus to baptize with the Holy Spirit?
  - Jesus is the only source of the Spirit. The Spirit is never given apart from Jesus.
  - Jesus immerses people in the Spirit, so people are pervasively impacted and influenced by the Spirit. This work of Christ and the Spirit is speaking to salvation. Being baptized with the Spirit awakens lost souls to new life and empowers them to walk after Christ (Ezk 26:36-37).
- Jesus is a good gift-giver, isn't He? Not only did Jesus give us His life as the Lamb of God, but He also gives us the Holy Spirit. Those are the only two things we will ever really need.

**5. The Son of God – The Fullness of God (vs. 34)**

- "Son of God" is the most common title for Jesus. This title communicates the deity of Jesus as it speaks to the shared nature between Jesus and God the Father. Just as children share the nature of their parents, Jesus shares the same nature and status as God. Jesus is God!
- What is wild is that God became man and dwelt among us. The transcendent God came in a form that we can understand, relate to, and emulate.



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