

# PANORAMA OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Jesus' Baptism and Temptation



# John's Ministry

## VI. John the Baptist's ministry and Jesus' baptism and temptation in the wilderness – Matthew 3-4:11

### A. The historical time frame – Luke 3:1-2, Mark 1:1

1. Luke 3:1-2 – As a good historian, Luke indicated the precise time period.

a. Luke 3:1a – Tiberius ruled the Roman Empire from 14 to 37 AD.

# John's Ministry

- b. Luke 3:1b – Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea from 26 to 36 AD.
- c. Luke 3:1c – Herod Antipas, who murdered John the Baptist, ruled Galilee from 4 to 39 AD.
- d. Luke 3:1d – Philip presided as governor (Tetrarch) of Ituraea and Trachonitis on the east side of the Jordan River from 4 to 34 AD.

# John's Ministry

- e. Luke 3:2a – Annas was high priest from 6 to 15 AD when Rome deposed him.
- f. Luke 3:2b – Annas' son-in-law, Caiphas, was high priest from 18 to 36 AD.
- g. Luke 3:2c – John the Baptist's prophetic message came from God.



# John's Ministry

2. Mark 1:1 – Mark, a man of action, began his Gospel account with the exciting ministry of John the Baptist.

# John's Ministry

## B. John's message of repentance – Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:2-6, Luke 3:3-6

1. Matthew 3:1 – Because Matthew's primary goal was to present Jesus as King, he didn't need to date John the Baptizer's ministry as precisely as Luke did. Matthew's Jewish audience already knew the information.
2. Matthew 3:2 – John functioned as the King's herald (forerunner), proclaiming the coming of the King Jesus Christ

# John's Ministry

- a. Matthew 3:2a – John heralded an event, the coming of the Kingdom of heaven.
- b. The Greek word *METANOEO*(repent) means to change and indicates the mental attitude change needed to prepare the way for the coming of the King.



# John's Ministry

- 1) Repentance involves a change of thinking; thus, John the Baptizer called for a change of thinking about the Kingdom of Heaven, which was at hand.
- 2) The Hebrew word *SHUV*, meaning return, was used in a similar way to indicate a fresh orientation in attitude or belief or a total shift in perspective.



# John's Ministry

- 3) Deuteronomy 28 – God's curses (punishments) for Israel's disobedience included removing them from the Promised Land. 1 Thessalonians 1:9
- 4) Deuteronomy 30:1-5 – Neither the restoration of blessings nor the Kingdom of Heaven could come until Israel changed its mind about worthless things and turned in faith to God (the result of repentance). Hebrews 6:1

# John's Ministry

5) Mark 1:4 – John's baptism of repentance was an outward sign of identification with his message, showing that the baptized person had changed his thoughts about God's Kingdom. No one has ever been saved through baptism.

# John's Ministry

- a) John the Baptist's message of repentance involved a change from trusting in one's own merit before God to trusting in Messiah for forgiveness of sins.



# John's Ministry

b) John the Baptist's message of repentance involved a change of mind from trusting in one's own righteousness to trusting in the perfect righteousness of God's salvation in the person of Jesus, the Messiah.



# *Gospels*



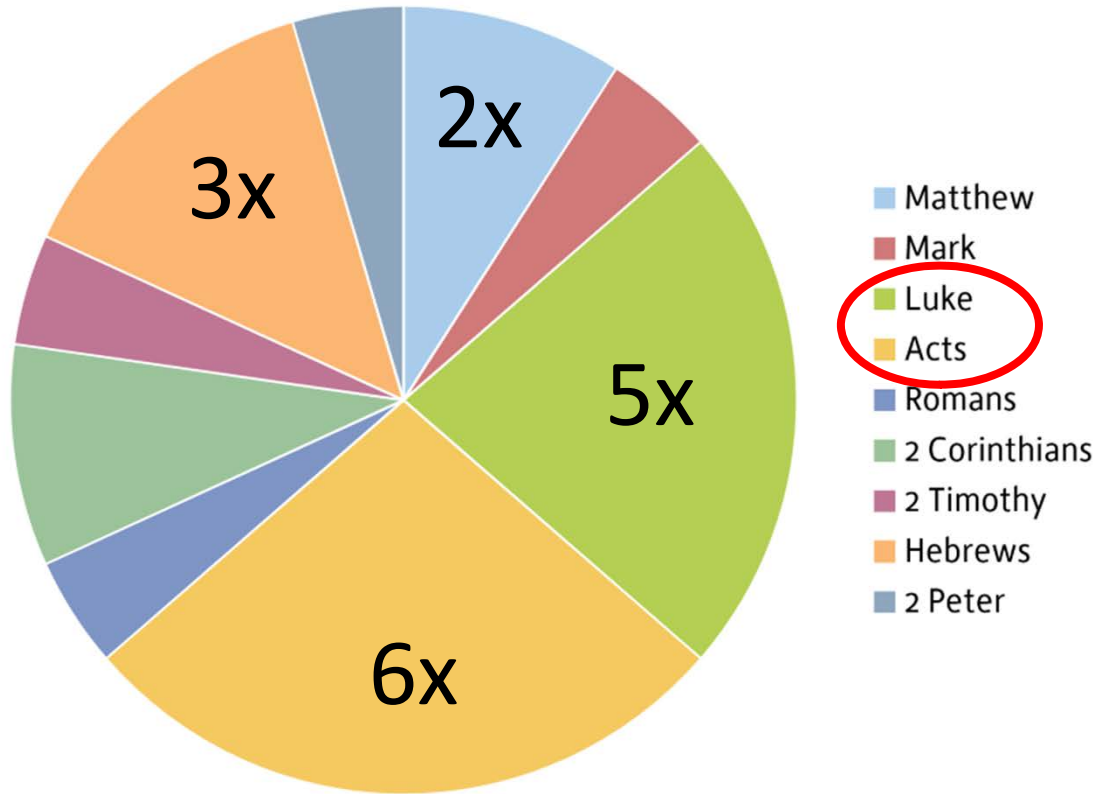
## **Repentance**

The Greek terms METANOIA and METANOEO mean a change of mind or to change one's mind.

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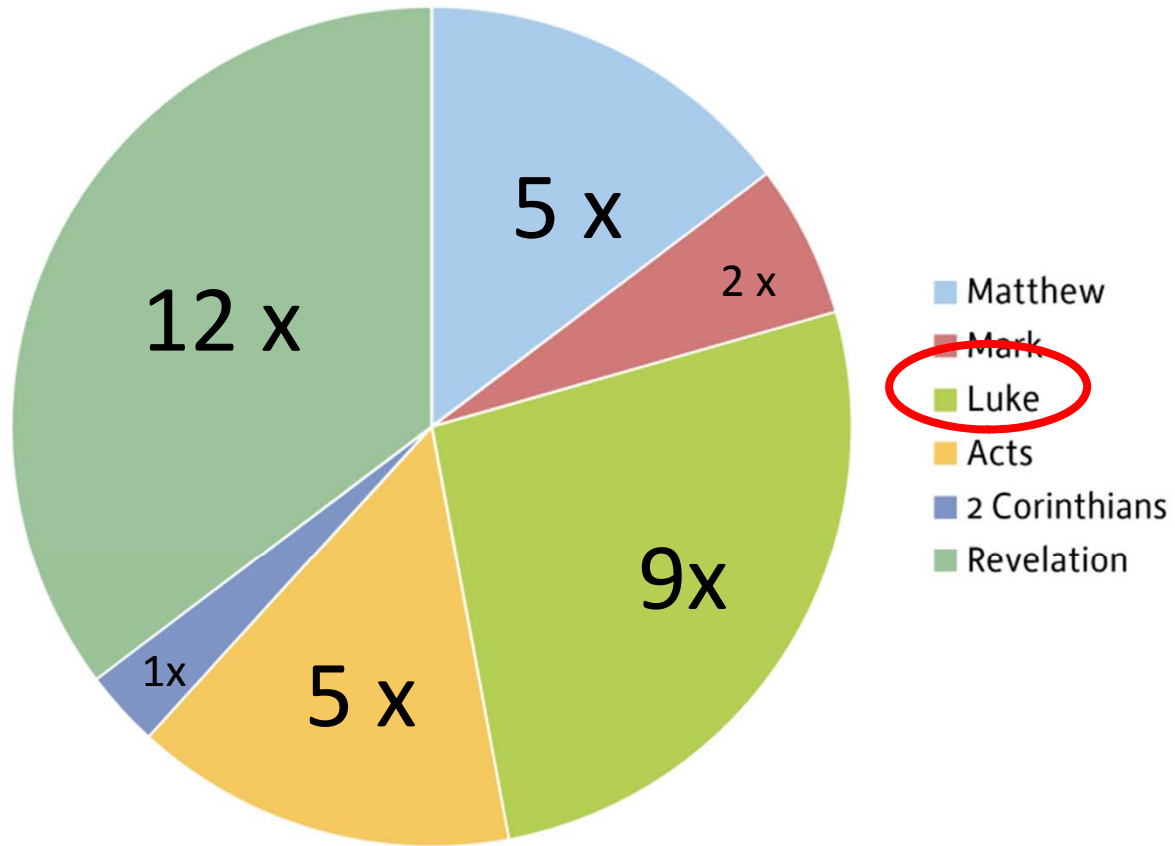
# METANOIA 22x





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### METANOEO - 34x



# *Gospels*



## **Repentance**

John's message of repent involved a change from trusting in one's own merit before God and trust the Messiah for forgiveness of sins.

Jesus' message of repent involved a change of mind from trusting in your own righteousness to trusting God's salvation in the Person of Jesus, the Messiah.



# John's Ministry

- c. Matthew 3:2b – The Pharisees taught the Israelites about the coming Messiah and His literal, earthly Kingdom; however, they thought He would be a political leader who would free them from Rome. 2 Samuel 7, Isaiah 11-12, Micah 4

# John's Ministry

- d. Matthew 3:2c – Every aspect of this scene was Jewish because Matthew's audience was Jewish.
- 1) John the Baptist was the Jewish forerunner of the Jewish Messiah with the Jewish message about the establishment of the Jewish Kingdom.
  - 2) The Kingdom was popularly known in Israel as the Kingdom of the Heavens.

# John's Ministry

- 3) Jesus made a full and free offer of Himself to Israel as Messiah, King of the Kingdom of the Heavens. If all Israel had accepted Him as Messiah, the kingdom would have begun on earth at that moment. Instead, the kingdom won't come until the Millennium.



# John's Ministry

- 4) The nation of Israel's lack of repentance (their change of mental attitude concerning their true spiritual poverty, their self-righteousness, their dead religious activities, and their need of a Savior) prevented the coming of the Kingdom of the Heavens announced by John the Baptist.



# John's Ministry

3. Matthew 3:3 – All four Gospel writers linked John's ministry to Isaiah 40:3.
4. Matthew 3:4 – John the Baptist's strange dress and diet were visible signs of his separation from the false religion of Judaism. He challenged Israel to change its mind from trusting in worthless religious activity to believing in the Messiah.

# John's Ministry

5. Matthew 3:5-6 – Many throughout the land of Israel came to hear John the Baptizer and later identified with his message of the Messiah through baptism.

# John's Ministry

## C. John the Baptist and the religious leaders – Mat. 3:7-12, Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:7-18

1. Matthew 3:7 – John the Baptist's message attracted many curious people, including Israel's religious leaders.
  - a. Matthew 3:7a – John recognized that the religious leaders had rejected God's message. He called them vipers because they were poisoning Israel with their lies.



# John's Ministry

- b. Matthew 3:7b – John the Baptizer sarcastically asked who had warned them to escape God's wrath since they thought they were acceptable to God (i.e. not under His wrath) merely because they were Abraham's genetic descendants.



# John's Ministry

2. Matthew 3:8 – John challenged the Pharisees, saying, “Being Abraham’s descendants does not make you right with God. If you have changed your minds about God, prove it by your works.”
3. Matthew 3:9 – John rebuked these Jewish religious leaders for teaching the Israelites that their genetic relationship to Abraham made them acceptable to God.

# John's Ministry

- a. Matthew 3:9a – The Israelites believed that merely being descendants of Abraham guaranteed they would be part of God's eternal Kingdom.
- b. Matthew 3:9b – John sarcastically indicated that being children of Abraham had no saving merit. He said that God could give stones a genealogical heritage to Abraham, but they still wouldn't be saved.

# John's Ministry

4. Matthew 3:10 – John the Baptizer explained that divine judgment must precede the establishment of the Kingdom. Isaiah 13:6-19, Daniel 9:26-27
5. Matthew 3:11-12 – In humility, John, who had a large following, acknowledged that Messiah's ministry was much greater than his own ministry.



# John's Ministry

- a. Matthew 3:11a – John's ministry involved baptizing (dipping) people in water.  
Baptism is a transliteration of the Greek word *BAPTIZMO*, meaning identification.
- b. Matthew 3:11b – The sign of Messiah's ministry would also include baptism: the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the future baptism with fire prophesied in the Old Testament. Ezekiel 36:25-27, Joel 2:28-29



# John's Ministry

- c. Matthew 3:12 – The baptism of fire is the judgment that will purify the earth so that the Kingdom of heaven can begin with believers only. 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Revelation 19:11-21

# Salvation Ministries of the Holy Spirit

**Convicting**

*John 16:7-11*

**Regenerating**

*Titus 3:5*

**Indwelling**

*1 Cor. 3:16*

**Sealing**

*Eph. 1:13-14*

**Baptizing**

*1 Cor. 12:13*

**Gifting**

*1 Cor. 12:11*

# Two Positions of Identity

Old Things in Adam

New Things in Christ

Condemned

Justified

*Romans 5:18a*

*Romans 5:18b*

-R – *Romans 5:19a*

+R – *Romans 5:19b*

Spiritually Dead

Spiritually Alive

*Ephesians 2:1*

*Ephesians 2:5-7*

# Identified with Christ

Union with Christ

*Col. 2:12-13*

You are:

A Child of God

*Gal. 3:26*

A Priest

*1 Peter 2:9*

Protected by God

*1 Peter 1:5*

Identified with Christ

*Gal. 3:28*

You have:

Forgiveness of sin

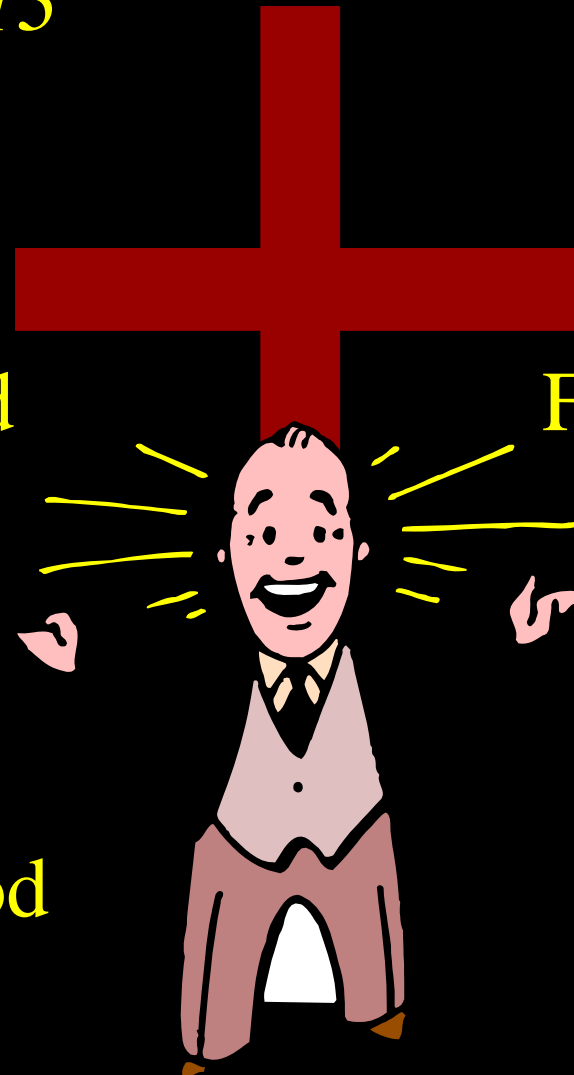
*Eph. 1:7*

Righteousness

*2 Cor. 5:21*

Eternal Life

*1 John 5:11*





# Jesus' Baptism

**D. Jesus' unique baptism— Matthew 3:13-17,  
Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-23a**

Mediterranean  
Sea



RARCHY  
PHILIP

LIS

***Jesus travels to Judea to be baptized by John the Baptist***

# Jesus' Baptism

1. Matthew 3:13 – Jesus came to His cousin John the Baptizer for the purpose of being baptized. He identified with John the Baptist's message because He was the message!
2. Matthew 3:14 – John humbly stated that he was the one who should be baptized.



# Jesus' Baptism

- a. Matthew 3:14a – John was the first prophet in Israel after 400 silent years.
- b. Matthew 3:14b – Jesus sought to be baptized by John, thereby following the pattern of Old Testament kings who were anointed by a prophet in preparation for ruling.



# Jesus' Baptism and Temptation

3. Matthew 3:15 – Jesus' baptism, which identified Him with the message of the Kingdom of heaven, was part of the Father's plan.
4. Matthew 3:16-17 – All three members of the trinity were present at Jesus' baptism, God the Father as a voice, God the Son as Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit as a dove.

# Jesus' Baptism

- a. Matthew 3:16 – The apostle John referred to this event in John 1:32-34.
- b. Matthew 3:17a – For the first of three times in Christ's life, the Father spoke.
- c. Matthew 3:17b – With the words *in whom I am well-pleased*, the Father verified the righteousness of Jesus, His Son.

# Jesus' Baptism

## ***5. A SHORT DOCTRINE OF JESUS AS PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING***

- a. Prophet:* Jesus, who revealed the Truth of God (John 1:16-18), was the greatest prophet and fulfilled Deuteronomy 18:15.
- b. Priest:* Jesus represented man before God. His sacrifice on the cross was sufficient payment for every sin for all mankind.



# Jesus' Baptism

- 1) Christ is a Priest after the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron. Hebrews 7:1-3
- 2) Christ, the Son of God, qualifies for the office of priest. Hebrews 1:3, 3:1-6
- 3) Just as God appointed all Old Testament priests so also He appointed Christ to be priest. Hebrews 5:1-10



# Jesus' Baptism

- 4) Christ's priesthood is higher than Aaron's because He didn't need to offer a sacrifice for Himself because He is sinless. Hebrews 5:6, 10, 7:1-28
- 5) Christ's priesthood is eternal.  
Hebrews 7:25

# Jesus' Baptism

c. *King*: Christ has authority to reign over all the earth but will not do so until all His enemies are made His footstool.

Psalm 110

d. The Lord Jesus Christ occupies these three offices simultaneously, making Him superior to all who have held or will hold any of them. Right now, He functions as our Great High Priest. In eternity, He will be King.

# Jesus' Baptism

- e. In these three offices, Christ revealed aspects of God to us, accomplished reconciliation through the atonement on the cross, and will one day rule over all the earth as the King of kings and Lord of lords.