

John the Baptist's Doubts

D. John the Baptist's doubts and Jesus' answer – Matthew 11:1-19, Luke 7:18-35

1. Matthew 11:1 – This verse transitions Matthew's Gospel by moving into the rejection of Jesus as Messiah.
2. Matthew 11:2 – Jesus clearly did the works of Messiah, but He did not wield His absolute authority over their Roman and religious rulers as expected; therefore, John the Baptist's faith wavered.

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3. Matthew 11:3 – Using a messianic title (*Coming One*) from Psalm 118:26, John asked for clarification from Jesus Himself.
4. Matthew 11:4-5 – Jesus did not have any additional evidence to give John that He hadn't already given the nation Israel. Equally, His Word must be sufficient for us.

John the Baptist's Doubts

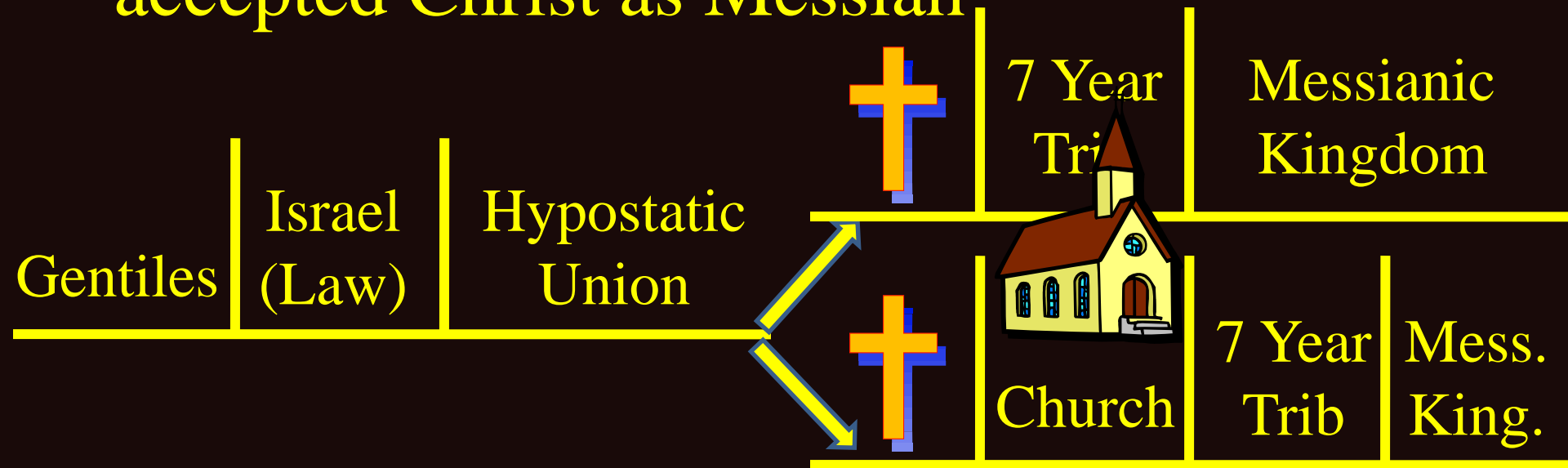
5. Matthew 11:6 – Apparently, the forerunner of Messiah, John the Baptist, needed no additional confirmation. Malachi 3:1
6. Matthew 11:7-9 – Jesus commended His faithful servant John the Baptist.
7. Matthew 11:10 – Quoting Malachi 3:1, Jesus reaffirmed John's prophetic ministry.
8. Matthew 11:11 – This statement indicated that the Kingdom had not yet come.

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9. Matthew 11:12-19 – These verses indicate that the Kingdom was being rejected by Israel, not accepted.

Kingdom Offer

Potential History – if all Israel had accepted Christ as Messiah
Romans 11:11-15



Actual History – Israel rejected Christ as Messiah

Woes to Cities

E. Woes on the cities in which He performed the most miracles – Matthew 11:20-30

1. Matthew 11:20 – Christ condemned these cities because they rejected the Kingdom and Messiah.
2. Matthew 11:21-22 – Jesus knew that the Jews in these cities had hardened their hearts more than the Gentiles of Tyre and Sidon.

Woes to Cities

3. Matthew 11:23-24 – Jesus knew that degenerate Sodom would have responded positively to Him had He performed the same miracles there as in Capernaum.
4. Matthew 11:25-26 – Christ's tone shifted from the condemnation of the previous verses to this invitation for His listeners to come to Him in faith.

Woes to Cities

5. Matthew 11:27 – No one can know the Father except through the Son. The Son desires to reveal the Father to all who come to Him in faith. John 17:25-26
6. Matthew 11:28 – The Pharisees had placed a *heavy* burden on the people with their subjective religious rules. In contrast, Jesus offered the true rest of eternal salvation to all who chose to believe in Him.

Woes to Cities

7. Matthew 11:29-30 – Jesus gave a gracious invitation to continue resting by yoking together with Him by faith.

Dining with the Pharisee

F. Dining with the Pharisee and the second tour of Galilee – Luke 7:36-8:3

1. Luke 7:36 – Simon was not honored to have Jesus in his home but thought Jesus should be honored to be in a Pharisee's home.
2. Luke 7:37-39 – Simon's thoughts revealed his true attitude about Jesus.
3. Luke 7:40-42 – Jesus answered Simon's thoughts with a question.

Dining with the Pharisee

4. Luke 7:43 – Jesus used this story to contrast the Pharisee and this woman whom he called a *sinner*.
5. Luke 7:44-47 – Simon showed Jesus no honor, but this woman did.
6. Luke 7:48 – Jesus made a claim to deity by asserting His authority to forgive sins.
7. Luke 7:49 – The guests questioned Jesus' authority to forgive sins.

Dining with the Pharisee

8. Luke 7:50 – This woman could go in peace because she had believed in Jesus.
9. Luke 8:1-3 – The second tour of Galilee

Blasphemy

G. The Jewish religious leaders' blasphemy of Jesus— Matthew 12:22-37, Luke 11:14-26, Mark 3:19-30

1. Matthew 12:22 – The demon was characterized by his effect on the man.
2. Matthew 12:23 – Because rabbis had taught for centuries that only Messiah could cast out mute demons, the people correctly understood this miracle as divine.

Blasphemy

3. Matthew 12:24 – Having already rejected Jesus as Messiah, the Pharisees reacted to the people's question by criticizing God's work.
4. Matthew 12:25 – Logically, a divided organization (kingdom, nation, business, team, marriage, etc.) cannot be successful or overcome opposition.

Blasphemy

5. Matthew 12:26 – Satan would defeat himself if he cast out demons because they belong to him.
6. Matthew 12:27 – Jesus' question implied His condemnation of the Pharisees' actions.
7. Matthew 12:28 – Jesus emphasized that He cast out demons by divine power, a fact that showed He was Messiah.

Blasphemy

8. Matthew 12:29 – Jesus rejected the Pharisee’s accusation and illustrated His point by claiming to have greater power than Satan, whom He created.
9. Matthew 12:30 – Jesus was laying the foundation for His announcement of special judgment on that generation of Israel for rejecting their Messiah.

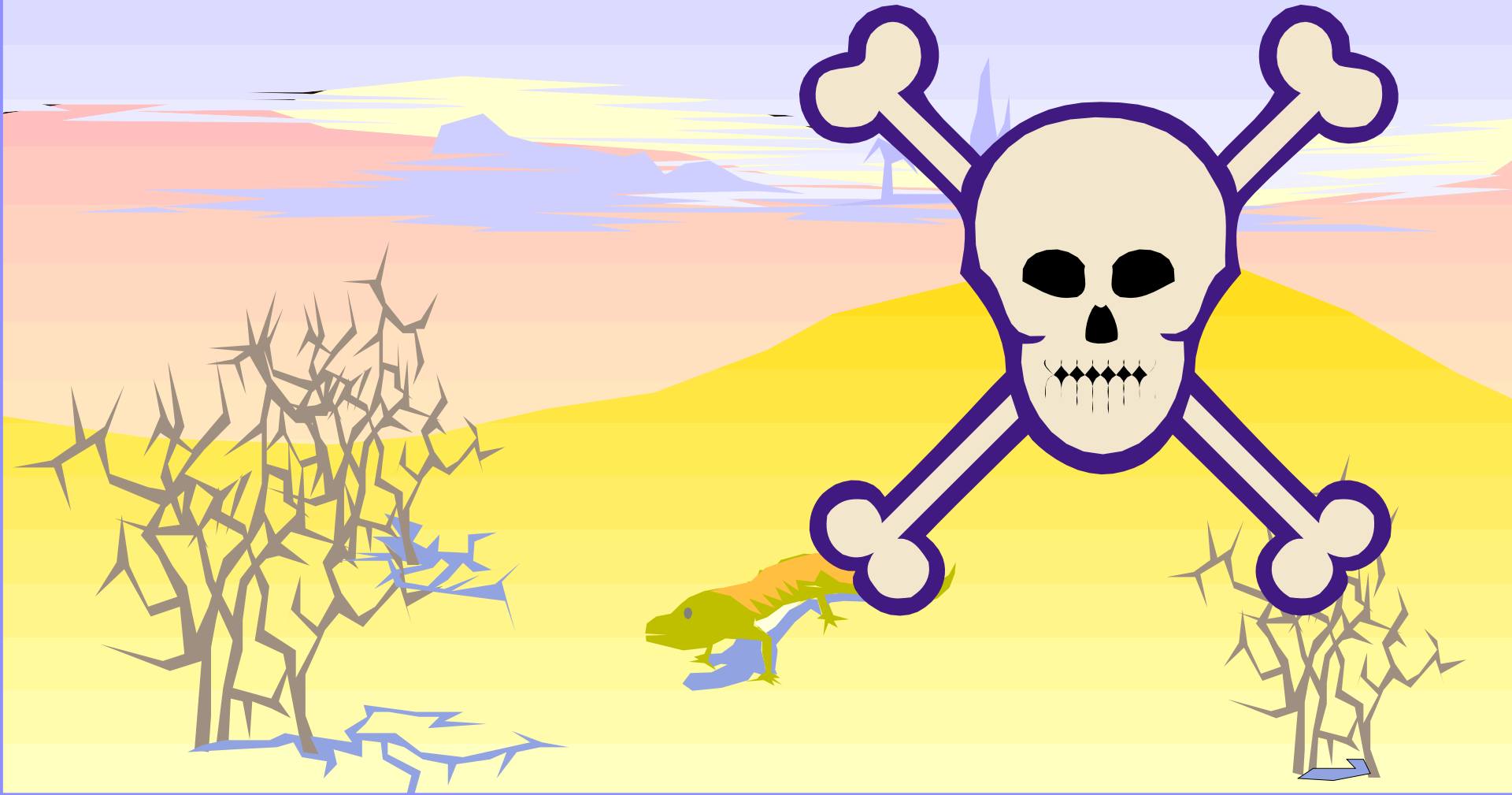
Blasphemy

10. Matthew 12:31 – When Israel's religious leaders charged Jesus with using Satan's power to cast out demons, they blasphemed the Holy Spirit by rejecting Jesus as Messiah.
11. Matthew 12:32 – This sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit was committed only by the Jewish generation of Jesus' day and gained a special judgment that God executed in 70 AD.

Blasphemy

12. Matthew 12:33-37 – The religious leaders produced only the fruit of self-righteous arrogance and would receive judgment from the One who condemned their self-righteousness. Only those following the Holy Spirit can produce good fruit.

There is a way which seems right
to a man, but its end is the way of death.



Request for a Sign

H. The request for a sign – Matthew 12:38-45

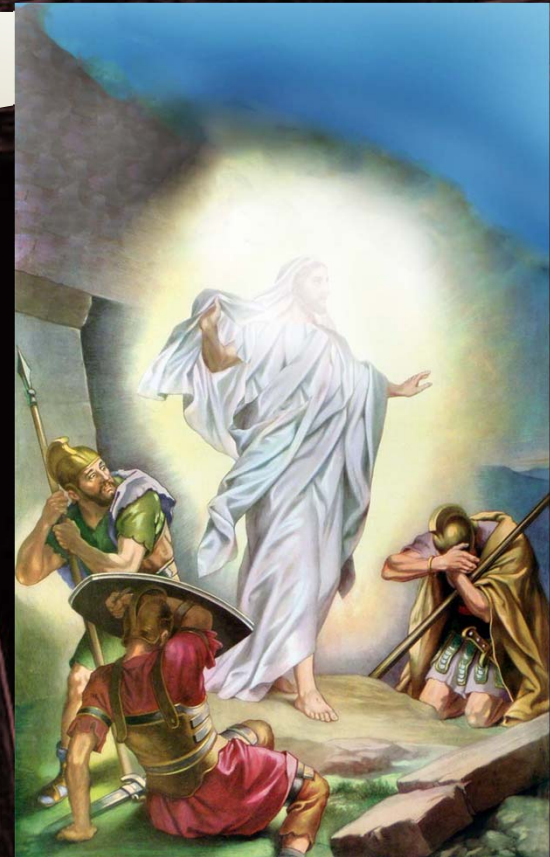
1. Matthew 12:38 – The implication behind their request was that they refused to accept the plentiful sign evidence Jesus had already provided.
2. Matthew 12:39 – The Lord's strong response showed His disgust with their demand for another sign.

Request for a Sign

3. Matthew 12:40 – The national decision to reject Messiah had been made; therefore, the only sign left for the nation was the resurrection, the sign of Jonah.
4. Matthew 12:41 – Since the Ninevites had eagerly repented after merely hearing Jonah's preaching, they would condemn the current generation for rejecting Messiah Himself.

Matthew

Matthew 12:38-40



As Jonah really did not remain in the belly of the sea monster, the Messiah did not remain in the grave.

Events Leading to Jesus' Rejection

5. Matthew 12:42 – The Gentile Queen of Sheba's willingness to seek Solomon because of the testimony of his wisdom stood in judgment against the current generation that was unwilling to accept the One far wiser than Solomon.
6. Matthew 12:43-45 – This analogy taught that John the Baptist's preaching *set Israel in order*; however, by rejecting Messiah, their present state was worse than before John cleaned house.

Events Leading to Jesus' Rejection

7. Matthew 12:46-47 – Matthew identified the subtle opposition that came from Messiah's own family.
8. Matthew 12:48-50 – Jesus used this opportunity to recognize His real family members are those who have believed in Him.