

# WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



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Mark 1:2–11

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2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,  
3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

### Jesus ushers in God's Hoped-for Kingdom

- "2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" 4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, 'After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit'" (vv. 2–8).
- What was Israel hoping for?
  - "Many, if not most second-Temple Jews, then, hoped for the new exodus, seen as the final return from exile" (N. T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God*, 209).
  - "A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God'" (Isaiah 40:3).
  - "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:1).
  - "The evangelists believed themselves to be bringing the story of Israel to its great climax, the turning-point from which at last the long history of the world would change course" (N. T. Wright, *The New Testament and the People of God*, 397).
- Jesus is the continuation of God's work and God's story.

### Because Jesus is the Messianic Servant

- "9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove" (vv. 9–10).
- Why was Jesus baptized?
  - He identifies with humanity
  - He reveals his identity
  - He is equipped and commissioned
    - "Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations" (Isaiah 42:1).
- Who was the Messiah?
  - Jesus was a different, unexpected messiah.
- Jesus is the messiah who is ushering in the kingdom.

### Because Jesus is the Eternal Son

- "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased'" (v. 11).

- Why was Jesus the messiah?
- At Jesus' baptism we not only discover Jesus is the messiah; we learn he is the eternal Son.
- "The Father bore witness, the Son received witness, the Holy Spirit gave confirmation" (Origen)
  - "I will tell of the decree:  
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you" (Psalm 2:7).
- "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father" (Nicene Creed)
- "The declaration of his sonship at the beginning of the narrative suggests that Jesus is *recognized* rather than *made* the Son of God" (Peter Orr, *The Beginning of the Gospel*, 33).
- Jesus is the messiah because he is the Son.

Jesus ushers in God's hoped-for kingdom because he is the Messianic servant and eternal Son.