THE RADICAL SET-APARTNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER FROM HIS MOTHER’S WOMB

  

A deeply penetrating revelatory study, taken from, and expounded further, from teaching by Pastor McQueen at the Prayer Center on Shabbat, January 23 2020

 In writing this study, the Presence of the Spirit of Yahuwah, and of Yahushua, is very tangibly felt. But, also, the presence of Yochanan/John, who came in the spirit of Eliyahu/Elijah - for the spirit of Eliyahu is now once again on the earth! I pray that this study will strengthen your faith and resolve to press deeper into this reality!

 This year, the theme of the Prayer Center I attend is “Be Set-Apart.” The first teaching on set-apartness the week before, was so riveting and spellbinding to me that I wrote about it in “This Is the Year to Take Off the Veil/Mikvah of the Heart of Elohim/Podcast CCLVIII.

 Her teaching on John/Yochanan the Baptizer was equally as riveting to me because, as I was studying the life and work of John the baptizer in 1985, I was so drawn to him in my spirit as a very real person. As I studied, Yahuwah spoke to me: “I have called you to the office of Prophet.” What a numbing surprise!

 But, then, Abba began my training with my baptism into the Spirit in November of 1966. At that time, He gave me all 9 gifts of the Spirit in **I Corinthians 12:1-11**, singling out especially the gifts of prophecy, knowledge, wisdom, and counsel. These four gifts are foundational for one called to “the Office” of the Prophet. All who are filled with the Spirit can speak in the language of heaven and prophesy, but are restricted to the order of **I Corinthians 14:1-33**. What Sha’ul wrote was to former pagans in the nations who had no idea of how to flow in the Spirit – something known to the Hebrews, nor how to act in an assembly where Torah is taught and teachings from Messiah also (house assemblies).

 The five “offices” of ministry are 1) Apostle, 2) Prophet, 3) Evangelist, 4) Pastor, 5) Teacher. It is said that the Pastor was to teach, to feed the spiritual sheep of Yahushua, thus it should read 4) Pastor-Teacher. Today we have pastors as well as different teachers. **Ephesians 4:1-16** gives the list. In the assemblies, the “evangelist” was not a preacher of salvation in a “tent revival” or a “church revival.”

 The word “evangelist” referred to those, like Levites, who would spiritually use “Fuller’s soap” to cleanse what was caked in filth – an exhorter to set-apartness of the born-again ones. Messiah, at His return, will return as One who cleanses in this way as **Malachi 3:1-3** tells us. These “gifts to the assembly” are for the edifying of the body/congregation of Messiah. They are to build up our faith so that we come into unity with our Master Yahushua Messiah and thus are ready for His return.

 During my training at BIOLA College in La Mirada, California, now a University, I was drawn to the prophets of the Tenach. I was taught how everything in the tabernacle and the festivals, and the Torah in general, spoke of Messiah. The prophets of the Bible became like brothers to me as I studied their writings through the years, and also the writings of the prophetic Apostle Sha’ul, Kepha/Peter, Jude, and the great prophetic discourse of Yochanan/John - the Revelation.

 I began teaching the book of *Revelation* in a small Bible College in California in 1970, as well as “Old Testament Survey.” Revelation and understanding began to pour into my spirit. My students were of extremely different backgrounds – the biggest group was the “ex” people - ex-Hell’s Angels, ex-pimps, ex-prostitutes, ex-murderers, ex-ect., plus a few regular everyday people thrown in. I shared the revelations with them. Several of the “ex” people, who were born again and filled with the Spirit, went on to be pastors and missionary workers for the Master.

 John the Immerser, the baptizer, was far more important than most people know. Hebrew Matthew has opened our eyes to many wonderful things. Yochanan/John carried the spirit of Eliyahu/Elijah. I did not ask for that anointing, but different ones in listening to me preach and teach in other countries took me aside and said “you have the spirit of Eliyahu.” It always made me more meek and humble, for I knew that in myself, I was no Elijah! But, then, he was a human too.

 Eliyahu became very special and dear to me. I had the privilege when living in Jordan to go twice to the place Elijah sat by the brook Cherith in **I Kings 17-18**, and where he went up to heaven, and even discuss it with two Jordanian Hashemite archeologists who were part of the team that discovered the place where John/Yochanan baptized. It is the same place where Eliyahu went up to heaven. I also went to the place where the contest on Mount Carmel took place. And, I went to the place of Tishbe, where Eliyahu grew up and lived. How real that is!

 Hebrew *Matthew* shows the importance of Yochanan more than the English version. In this article/study I go into that more.

 Prophecy of Yochanan the baptizer: **Isaiah 40:1-5**: “`Comfort, comfort My people!’ says your Elohim. [2](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-2.htm) `Speak to the heart of Yerushalayim, and cry out to her, that her hard service is completed, that her crookedness is pardoned, that she has received from the hand of יהוה double for all her sins.’ [3](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-3.htm)The voice of one crying in the wilderness, `Prepare the way of יהוה; make straight in the desert a highway for our Elohim. [4](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-4.htm) Let every valley be raised, and every mountain and hill made low. And the steep ground shall become level, and the rough places smooth. [5](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-5.htm)And the esteem of יהוה shall be revealed, and all flesh together shall see it. For the mouth of יהוה has spoken.’”

 Yochanan’s father, Zechariah, was killed by the Romans at the request of the Pharisees. The Pharisees feared the miraculous son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. They thought He may be the messiah who would come and usurp their authority and power over the people. He was of the pure line of Zadok, from the tribe of Levi, not one of the hybrids like themselves. They feared Yochanan. Zechariah knew they wanted to kill his son. He would not tell them where he was. He had taken him into the desert to the Zadok priests to raise there. So, the Pharisees had the Romans kill him out of their fear Yochanan – the rightful High Priest.

 The Maccabees installed their Hasmonian relatives as High Priests and Levites in Jerusalem to rule. They became known as Pharisees and Sadducees. You can read more about who they were and of what lineage in: “Ezra 8 and 9: Going to the Root of the Pollution of the Gene Pool of Priests and Levites by the Seed of the Vipers/Mikvah of Israel, Our Eternal Inheritance. Because of what they were, the real priests of the lineage of Zadok fled to Qumran. They took with them the scrolls, the parchments of the Scriptures from the Temple to preserve them and copy them. They also took the cloak/mantle of Eliyahu from its casing near the veil in the Temple. They raised Yochanan, knowing who he was, and of what spirit he was. In the “War Scroll” of the Zadok Priests of Qumran, they wrote prophetically of their time and the time we live in now, naming the reigning Pharisees “sons of Belial.”

 The Zadok priests in Qumran raised him. He became the “Teacher of righteousness.” He was raised in the desert. He was “the voice of one crying in the wilderness.” His assignment from Yahuwah was to prepare the way of Yahuwah for His Son. Yes, Yochanan was the rightful High Priest in the pure line of Levi through Zadok, just as Yahushua Messiah was the rightful King of Israel by lineage from King David.

 The Pharisees were hybrids – part of the hybrid priesthood of **Ezra 9-10** from Levites in Babylon who intermarried with hybrid pagan women and produced hybrid offspring. This is why Yochanan and Messiah called the Pharisees and Sadducees “seed of vipers,” “brood of vipers.” Their lineage went back into the Nephilim. That lineage is with us today in various bloodlines.

 Messiah credits the Pharisees with slaying Zachariah – between the temple and the altar … **Matthew 23:35**: “As a result, you will be held responsible for the murder of all godly people of all time—from the murder of righteous Abel to the murder of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you killed in the Temple between the sanctuary and the altar.”

 At Qumran today, a film is shown of Yochanan being a part of the Zadok community in Qumran and how the Zadok priests were upset and confused as to why, when they found out that he was baptizing Roman soldiers. They did not know they were of the House of Israel, like Cornelius and family. They did not understand that his assignment was to prepare the way for the coming Messiah – his cousin – born six months after him. Yes, Yahushua was the rightful King of Israel to sit on the throne in Jerusalem judging the 12 tribes of Ya’cob and Yochanan, the rightful High Priest – of pure lineage, and the Pharisees knew it.

 **Matthew 3:1-17**: “And in those days Yoḥanan the Immerser came proclaiming in the wilderness of Yehuḏah, [2](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-2.htm)and saying, `Repent, for the reign of the heavens has come near!’ [3](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-3.htm)For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Yeshayahu, saying, `A voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of יהוה, make His paths straight.’ [4](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-4.htm)And Yoḥanan had a garment of camel’s hair, and a leather girdle around his waist. And his food was locusts and wild honey. [5](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-5.htm)Then Yerushalayim, and all Yehuḏah, and all the country around the Yardĕn went out to him, [6](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-6.htm)and they were immersed by him in the Yardĕn, confessing their sins. [7](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-7.htm)And seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his immersion, he said to them, “Brood of adders! Who has warned you to flee from the coming wrath? [8](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-8.htm)Bear, therefore, fruits worthy of repentance, [9](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-9.htm)and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Aḇraham as father,.’ for I say to you that Elohim is able to raise up children to Aḇraham from these stones. [10](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-10.htm) And the axe is already laid to the root of the trees. Every tree, then, which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [11](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-11.htm) I indeed immerse you in water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to bear. He shall immerse shall thoroughly cleanse His threshing-floor, and gather His wheat into the storehouse, but the chaff He shall burn with unquenchable fire. [13](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-13.htm)Then יהושע came from Galil to Yoḥanan at the Yardĕn to be immersed by him. [14](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-14.htm)But Yoḥanan was hindering Him, saying, `I need to be immersed by You, and You come to me?’ [15](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-15.htm)But יהושע answering, said to him, `Permit it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fill all righteousness.’ Then he permitted Him. [16](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-16.htm)And having been immersed, יהושע went up immediately from the water, and see, the heavens were opened, and He saw the Spirit of Elohim descending like a dove and coming upon Him, [17](https://biblehub.com/matthew/3-17.htm)and see, a voice out of the heavens, saying, `This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I delight.’”

 **Matthew 11:1-19**: “And it came to be, when יהושע ended instructing His twelve taught ones, that He set out from there to teach and to proclaim in their cities.

[**2**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-2.htm)And when Yoḥanan had heard in the prison of the works of Messiah, he sent two of his taught ones [**3**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-3.htm)and said to Him, `Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ [**4**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-4.htm)And יהושע answering, said to them, `Go, report to Yoḥanan what you hear and see: the blind receive sight and lame walk, lepers are cleansed and deaf hear, dead are raised up and poor are brought the Good News. [**6**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-6.htm)And blessed is he who does not stumble in Me.’ [**7**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-7.htm)And as these were going, יהושע began to say to the crowds concerning Yoḥanan, `What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? [**8**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-8.htm) But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft garments? Look, those wearing soft *garments* are in the houses of sovereigns.

[**9**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-9.htm)“But what did you go out to see? A prophet? **Yea, I say to you, and more than a prophet.** [**10**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-10.htm)For this is he of whom it was written, ‘**See, I send My messenger before Your face, who shall prepare Your way before You**.’ [**11**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-11.htm)Truly, I say to you, `among those born of women there has not risen one greater than Yoḥanan `

[**12**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-12.htm)And from the days of Yoḥanan the Immerser till now the reign of the heavens is violated, and the violent seize it.[**13**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-13.htm) For all the prophets and the Torah prophesied *untill Yoḥanan*. [**14**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-14.htm)And if you wish to accept it, he is Ěliyahu who was about to come. [**15**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-15.htm)He who has ears to hear, let him hear! [**16**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-16.htm)And to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to their companions, [**17**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-17.htm)and saying, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we lamented to you, and you did not beat the breast.’ [**18**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-18.htm)For Yoḥanan came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ [**19**](https://biblehub.com/matthew/11-19.htm)The Son of Aḏam came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘See, a man, a glutton and a wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ And wisdom was declared right by her works.”

 In this NKJ translation, and all translations from the Greek into the English, they do not correctly translate **Matthew 11:13.** NKJ: “For all the prophets and the law **prophesied until John**.” This makes it sound like after John the law and prophets were done away with – this is used, at least, by Christian theologians to say that John was the last of the Old Testament prophets. However, this is not the wording from the Hebrew. The Hebrew *Matthew* says “the prophets and the Torah **prophesied** **concerning John**.” That is quite a different statement!

 In Hebrew *Matthew* Yochanan takes a much broader role in redemption, as Nehemia Gordon discovered in researching Hebrew *Matthew* and clarified **Matthew 23:1-4** as well as **Matthew 11:13**.

 Without his “preparing the way” by calling for repentance, by baptizing Yahushua, by baptizing those who repented, this High Priest could not have prepared the way for Yahuwah. Thus, his role as the light of dawn on the new covenant, his role in the plan of salvation is very great. How set-apart he was!!!

 We all have a calling to prepare the way for the return of Yahushua! How are you carrying it out? Are you a voice crying in the wilderness of this evil world?

 **Mark 1:1-15**: “The beginning of the Good News of יהושע Messiah, the Son of Elohim. [2](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-2.htm)As it has been written in the Prophets, `See, I send My messenger before Your face, who shall prepare Your way before You,[3](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-3.htm) a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of יהוה, make His paths straight.’ [4](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-4.htm)Yoḥanan came immersing in the wilderness and proclaiming an immersion of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-5.htm)And all the country of Yehuḏah, and those of Yerushalayim, went out to him and were all immersed by him in the Yardĕn River, confessing their sins. [6](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-6.htm)And Yoḥanan was clothed with camel’s hair and a leather girdle around his waist, and eating locusts and wild honey. [7](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-7.htm)And he proclaimed, saying, “After me comes One who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen. [8](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-8.htm)`I indeed did immerse you in water, but He shall immerse you in the Set-apart Spirit.’ [9](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-9.htm)And it came to be in those days that יהושע came from Natsareth of Galil, and was immersed by Yoḥanan in the Yardĕn. [10](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-10.htm)And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. [11](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-11.htm)And a voice came out of the heavens, `You are My Son, the Beloved, in whom I delight.’ [12](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-12.htm)And immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. [13](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-13.htm)And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tried by Satan, and was with the wild beasts. And the messengers attended Him.

[14](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-14.htm)And after Yoḥanan was delivered up, יהושע came to Galil, proclaiming the Good News of the reign of Elohim, [15](https://biblehub.com/mark/1-15.htm)and saying, “The time has been filled, and the reign of Elohim has come near. Repent, and believe in the Good News.”

 Yochanan was baptizing on the east side of the Jordan River. To this day, as I said earlier, Jordanian archeologists have found the site where Eliyahu went up to heaven, but where, before that, he sat by the Brook Cherith and was fed by ravens. When talking to the Jordanian archeologists, I asked them where Elijah was at the Brook Cherith. They amazed me as they told of the wadi than runs from the Jordan to where Elijah went up to heaven (**II Kings 2**). I was there. I saw it. It is exactly as the Word describes it.

 This also was the place where Yochanan set up his baptism site. This is why they asked if he was “Elijah.” He was a forerunner. He was a preparer of the Way. Messiah had to go over the Jordan to be baptized, into the Plains of Moab, between the Jordan and Mount Nebo, where He buried Moses. Messiah began His 490-day ministry as He arose from the baptismal water of the Jordan.

 From that point until He poured out the Spirit upon the born-again on the Day of Pentecost, was 490 days. His ministry was not 3½ years – that 3½ years of cookie-cutter timing slipped into the text of the New Testament was a trick of the Jesuits to establish the pope as “Vicar of Christ” – i.e. Christ on earth in the body of the pope. We must know the nature, ways, and thinking of Yahuwah, and go to Him when we see something in the Word not of His nature or His culture. English translations from Aramaic and Greek are far better than those that mix Latin and German, perverting original-culture meaning and creating doctrines not of Him.

 Yahushua’s ministry ended with His death, resurrection, and return to heaven – and then His pouring out of His Father’s Spirit 10 days later – completing the 490 days of His ministry – paralleling the 490 years of **Daniel 11:24-27** – which is almost all about Messiah, not antichrist.

**Yochanan knew Yahushua from the womb**

 **Luke 1:9-25**: “…in the days of Herodes, the sovereign of Yehuḏah, a certain priest named Zeḵaryah, of the division of Aḇiyah. And his wife was of the daughters of Aharon, and her name was Elisheḇa. [6](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-6.htm)And they were both righteous before Elohim, blamelessly walking in all the commands and righteousness of יהוה. [7](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-7.htm)And they had no child, because Elisheḇa was barren, and both were advanced in years. [8](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-8.htm)And it came to be, that while he was serving as priest before Elohim in the order of his division, [9](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-9.htm)according to the institute of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to burn incense when he went into the Dwelling Place of יהוה. [10](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-10.htm)And the entire crowd of people was praying outside at the hour of incense. [11](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-11.htm)And a messenger of יהוה appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. [12](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-12.htm)And when Zeḵaryah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. [13](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-13.htm)But the messenger said to him, `Do not be afraid, Zeḵaryah, for your prayer is heard. And your wife Elisheḇa shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Yoḥanan. [14](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-14.htm)And you shall have joy and gladness, and many shall rejoice at his birth. [15](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-15.htm) For he shall be great before יהוה, and shall drink no wine and strong drink at all. **And he shall be filled with the Set-apart Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.** [16](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-16.htm)And he shall turn many of the children of Yisra’ĕl to יהוה their Elohim. [17](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-17.htm)And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Ěliyahu, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the insight of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for יהוה.’ [18](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-18.htm)And Zeḵaryah said to the messenger, `By what shall I know this? For I am old, and my wife advanced in years.’ [19](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-19.htm)And the messenger answering, said to him, `I am Gaḇri’ĕl, who stands in the presence of Elohim, and was sent to speak to you and announce to you this good news. [20](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-20.htm) But see, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day this takes place, because you did not believe my words which shall be filled in their appointed time.’ [21](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-21.htm)And the people waited for Zeḵaryah, and marvelled at his delay in the Dwelling Place.

[22](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-22.htm)And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them. And they recognized that he had seen a vision in the Dwelling Place, for he was beckoning to them and remained dumb. [23](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-23.htm)And it came to be, as soon as the days of his service were completed, he went away to his house. [24](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-24.htm)And after those days his wife Elisheḇa conceived. And she hid herself five months, saying, [25](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-25.htm)`יהוה has done this for me, in the days when He looked upon me, to take away my reproach among men.’”

 **Luke 1:39-45,** in the meantime, Miriam becomes pregnant with Yahushua. “And Miryam arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Yehuḏah, [40](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-40.htm)and entered into the house of Zeḵaryah and greeted Elisheḇa.

[41](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-41.htm)And it came to be, when **Elisheḇa heard the greeting of Miryam, that the baby leaped in her womb. And Elisheḇa was filled with the Set-apart Spirit**, and called out with a loud voice and said, `Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! [43](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-43.htm) And who am I, that the mother of my Master should come to me? [44](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-44.htm) **For look, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy**.[45](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-45.htm)Blessed is she who believed, for that which יהוה has said to her shall be accomplished.”

 **Yochanan in the womb of Elizabeth/Elisheba, recognized Yahushua within Miriam’s womb**. This is an amazing example of how the life of an unborn baby senses the world around it and can receive from the Spirit of Yahuwah. A baby is carried in the area of the spirit - the “belly” area of **John 7:37-39**. The baby hears its mother’s voice, feels her peace, her anger/her tensions, in some way. The baby hears the Word of Yahuwah and responds to it and to music, yet recoils at what is not from its creator. A baby actually senses if it is loved or not wanted. It has a spirit that reaches out beyond the physical world. The personality of the baby is formed within the womb, as well as its body.

**The birth of Yochanan**: **Luke 1:57-66**.

 Zechariah’s Prophecy: **Luke 1:67-80**: “And Zeḵaryah, his father, **was filled with the Set-apart Spirit, and prophesied**, saying, `[68](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-68.htm) Blessed be יהוה Elohim of Yisra’ĕl, for He did look upon and worked redemption for His people, [69](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-69.htm)and has raised up a horn of deliverance for us in the house of His servant Dawiḏ, [70](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-70.htm)as He spoke by the mouth of His set-apart prophets, from of old – [71](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-71.htm)deliverance from our enemies and from the hand of all those hating us, [72](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-72.htm)to show compassion toward our fathers and to remember His set-apart covenant, [73](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-73.htm)an oath which He swore to our father Aḇraham: [74](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-74.htm)to give to us, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, to serve Him without fear, [75](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-75.htm)in set-apartness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. [**76**](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-76.htm)**And you, child, shall be called prophet of the Most High, for you shall go before the face of יהוה to prepare His ways,** [**77**](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-77.htm)**to give knowledge of deliverance to His people, by the forgiveness of their sins,** [78](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-78.htm)through the tender compassion of our Elohim, with which the daybreak from on high has looked upon us, [79](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-79.htm)to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.’ [**80**](https://biblehub.com/luke/1-80.htm)**And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts until the day of showing Himself openly to Yisra’ĕl**.”

 **John 1:6-8**: “There was a man sent from Elohim, whose name was Yoḥanan.

[7](https://biblehub.com/john/1-7.htm)This one came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all might believe through him. [8](https://biblehub.com/john/1-8.htm)He was not that Light, but he came to bear witness of that Light.”

 **John 1:19-36**: “Now this was the witness of Yoḥanan when the Yehuḏim sent from Yerushalayim priests and Lĕwites to ask him, `Who are you?’ [20](https://biblehub.com/john/1-20.htm)And he confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, `I am not the Messiah.’ [21](https://biblehub.com/john/1-21.htm)And they asked him, `What then, are you Ěliyahu?’ So he said, `I am not.’ `Are you the Prophet?’ And he answered, `No.’ [22](https://biblehub.com/john/1-22.htm)Therefore they said to him, `Who are you, so that we give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?’ [23](https://biblehub.com/john/1-23.htm)He said, `I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of יהוה,’ as the prophet Yeshayahu said.’ [24](https://biblehub.com/john/1-24.htm)And those sent were of the Pharisees, [25](https://biblehub.com/john/1-25.htm)and they asked him, saying, `Why then do you immerse if you are not the Messiah, nor Ěliyahu, nor the Prophet?’ [26](https://biblehub.com/john/1-26.htm)Yoḥanan answered them, saying, I immerse in water, but in your midst stands One whom you do not know, [27](https://biblehub.com/john/1-27.htm)the One coming after me, who has become before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loosen.’ [**28**](https://biblehub.com/john/1-28.htm)**This took place in Bĕyth Anyah beyond the Yardĕn, where Yoḥanan was immersing.** [**29**](https://biblehub.com/john/1-29.htm)**On the next day Yoḥanan saw יהושע coming toward him, and said, `See, the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sin of the world!**’ [30](https://biblehub.com/john/1-30.htm) `**This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me**. [31](https://biblehub.com/john/1-31.htm)And I did not know Him, but that He might be revealed to Yisra’ĕl, therefore I came immersing in water.’ [32](https://biblehub.com/john/1-32.htm)And Yoḥanan bore witness, saying, `I have seen the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove and remain on Him. [33](https://biblehub.com/john/1-33.htm)And I did not know Him, but He who sent me to immerse in water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit coming down and remaining on Him, this is He who immerses in the Set-apart Spirit.’ [34](https://biblehub.com/john/1-34.htm) And **I have seen and have witnessed that this is the Son of Elohim**. [35](https://biblehub.com/john/1-35.htm)Again the following day, Yoḥanan was standing with two of his taught ones, [36](https://biblehub.com/john/1-36.htm)and looking at יהושע walking, he said, `See the Lamb of Elohim!’

 **Yochanan announced His ministry and His identity as Deity. He told His disciples that He was the Lamb of Elohim.**

 Yochanan baptized/immersed in the desert region where Eliyahu went up to heaven. He was there in the “thickets of Jordan” – the Jordan River. He was at Bethabara, on the east of the Jordan River. It was in line with Jericho (as in **II Kings 2**) and with East Jerusalem. Its line went on to Mount Nebo across the Plains of Moab.

 Yochanan was the rightful High Priest. He could have lived in luxury, with honor and esteem. He could have been like Nikodemus or Nathaniel. But he knew nothing of luxury. He was raised in the desert with Zadok priests in Qumran – overlooking the Dead Sea and the mountains of Moab. I have been there many times and always felt the presence of Yochanan there. At the site, at the headwaters of the Dead Sea, south of Jerusalem, they show an excellent movie that shows John with them. John sure did understood the mivah from which baptism is taken.

 My website shows 10 mikvas. The pictures were taken by my son and I in 2011, when he came to Israel the first time. Most of the pictures are from the ruins of Korizim in north Israel, but some are from the archeological park in Jerusalem, just under the south wall of the Temple Mount, and from Qumran. On my son’s website he has a video of he and his wife in Qumran (thewelltroddenroad.org).

 In Hebrew manner, a person being baptized goes down fully under the water by himself, as in a mikvah, and comes up out of it by himself. The “baptizer” is simply a witness.

 As Pastor McQueen brought out, Yochanan began a ministry never done before in Israel – having people repent of their individual sins, then be immersed - aside from a Festival, and without the High Priest’s ceremonial actions. Yochanan had the people step into the muddy Jordan River for baptism. This was something new!

 His message was new. He preached individual repentance. Thus, thus this was the beginnings of the message of freedom from animal sacrifices. Salvation was dependent on repentance by fruits that show repentance, by right standing with Yahuwah without the symbolic rituals that pictured Messiah. Romans soldiers came for repentance and baptism. Most of them most likely were of the House of Israel. Many of them already guarded the Torah, like Cornelius and his family, or the Captain that said he was over 100 men and all Messiah had to do was speak the word and his servant would be healed. Note: Messiah did not call that man a gentile, like He did the Canaanite woman in **Matthew 15**. Messiah was amazed at his faith.

 No, Yochanan did not know what a lifestyle of normalcy in the world was like. He had no wife, children, job, or place to call “home.” There is a cave near Jerusalem, discovered by Israeli archeologists, where it is said that he lived. I visited it that place. It is in the same little town where Miriam/Mary met with Elisheba/Elizabeth in **Luke 1**. There is a big Catholic Church there called “the Church of the Annunciation.” They have a little spot in a small cave in the church where John the Baptist was supposedly born. I went into a chapel up the hill that was adjacent to the church. On the main wall was pained a huge picture of Mary standing on what looked like a giant aspirin tablet, saucer-shaped, flying over the somewhere on earth. The presence of the demonic was so strong from the picture that I ran out of there and down the hill to the main street, speaking in tongues. I later saw the picture on the internet. My stories – oh well …

 I’ve told my experience in 1949, at nearly age 5, often. But, to make a point of what Pastor said in her message regarding John not ever knowing the luxury of his High Priest position, but growing up in an environment that would be normal to him as he was baptizing and teaching, I’ll repeat it again. I was just a little girl in the backseat of my parent’s car, my papa was driving, trying to find a parking place near the beach, Huntington Beach, and I was looking out the window at people walking along. I looked down to see what looked like an opaque bubble wrapping around my spirit area, (top of the breast bone to the top of the legs), and I heard a man’s voice gently say: “You don’t belong here anymore.” I looked back through the window and everything was different. It was like I was on the inside looking out not just from the car window, but like I was viewing a TV movie. From that point on until now, I never felt at home in this world. My dad was ½ Cherokee Indian. I grew up wanted to sleep in a tent in the backyard, climb trees, dig worms for my pet chicken and duck, rescue cats, turtles, and birds. What is normal for a girl in modern days just never it. This world is something I’ve lived in but never had the desires of those who sought money, possessions, position, popularity, power, authority, and grandeur of this world. I never had any interest in those things.

 From age 6 when I was born again, May 13, 1951, I just wanted to tell people about Jesus. Later I went to college to study to become a missionary. I had no interests like the children I grew up with. I wanted to study the Bible. I was not attracted to anything of this world. I did not belong … I’d be out playing and papa would call to me that a Billy Graham Crusade was on TV, or an Oral Robert’s healing program. I’d stop playing and go sit and watch and cry tears when people would come “forward” to be born again. I questioned my pastors and youth pastors at an early age if they taught something that contradicted the Bible. I was very bold and very focused. The enemy tried to make my focus other things but Yahuwah, in His mercy and love, kept bringing me back to ground zero. Today the depth of my passion for my Savior and my heavenly Abba is stronger than ever.

 So, I really understand Yochanan. He grew up with priests who had fled Jerusalem at the time of the Hasmonians, and lived in a secluded place in the desert. He was a “voice in the desert” telling people to prepare for the Messiah. And, for some reason, I always loved the desert.

 In 1985, while studying the life of Yochanan, Abba spoke to me: “I have called you to the Office of the Prophet.” From that time, I began moving in prophecy, but also my passion for the Prophets of the Tenach grew and grew. They are like my family, my “brothers,” which includes the Prophets of the New Covenant, especially Sha’ul, Kepha, and Yochanan the Apostle in the *Revelation*. Daniel became a brother, as did Enoch, Eliyahu, and Moshe. I have seen some of them and talked with some of them in visions, and in person.

 Yochanan had one purpose in life – to make straight the way for Messiah by preparing the people, baptizing Yahushua, and teaching repentance and set-apartness. When his job was over, the evil ones conspired to have him beheaded.

 So, as Pastor McQueen laid out on January 23rd at the Prayer Center, Yochanan was set-apart!!! He did not take his rightful place as High Priest. He did not let the people know even who he was. He had his own disciples – i.e. his own “taught ones.” He was martyred at age 30. What a tragedy! Yet, without Him Messiah’s ministry would not have had a firm foundation from which to build on.

 Yochanan understood the baptism into the Spirit, too, for He also announced it, i.e. **Luke 3:16.** Yochanan connected Messiah with His Father, who is spirit, who is THE SPIRIT. Yochanan had much more to do with the foundation of Yahushua than people imagine. “The Torah and the Prophets were concerning Yochanan…” (**Matthew 11:13**)

Yochanan understood the prophecies of the Tenach about Yahushua. He understood salvation. He understood the giving of the Spirit. He also understood that He was an attendant, like Eliyahu, of the Groom, Yahushua ha Machiach.

 **John 3:22-36**: “And Yoḥanan was also immersing in Ayin near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. And they were coming and were being immersed, [24](https://biblehub.com/john/3-24.htm)for Yoḥanan had not yet been put into prison. [25](https://biblehub.com/john/3-25.htm)Then a dispute arose between some of Yoḥanan’s taught ones and the Yehuḏim about cleansing, [26](https://biblehub.com/john/3-26.htm)and they came to Yoḥanan and said to him, `Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Yardĕn, to whom you have witnessed, see, He is immersing, and all are coming to Him!’ [27](https://biblehub.com/john/3-27.htm)Yoḥanan answered and said, `No man is able to receive any matter unless it is given to him from the heaven. [28](https://biblehub.com/john/3-28.htm)You yourselves are witnesses for me that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but **I am sent ahead of Him**.’ [29](https://biblehub.com/john/3-29.htm) He that has the bride is the bridegroom, but **the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the voice of the bridegroom. So, this joy of mine is complete.** [**30**](https://biblehub.com/john/3-30.htm)**It is right for Him to increase, but me to decrease**. [31](https://biblehub.com/john/3-31.htm)He who comes from above is over all, he who is from the earth is of the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from the heaven is over all. [32](https://biblehub.com/john/3-32.htm) And what He has seen and heard, that He witnesses. And no one receives His witness. [33](https://biblehub.com/john/3-33.htm)He who receives His witness has set his seal that Elohim is true. [34](https://biblehub.com/john/3-34.htm)For He whom Elohim has sent speaks the Words of Elohim, for Elohim does not give the Spirit by measure. [35](https://biblehub.com/john/3-35.htm)The Father loves the Son, and has given all into His hand. [**36**](https://biblehub.com/john/3-36.htm)**He who believes in the Son possesses everlasting life, but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of Elohim remains on him.’”**  [“Believe” and “obey” are two different words. Many can belief, but it is those who obey who enter the Kingdom]

 Yochanan went on to be beheaded for speaking righteous truth. He completed his work on earth. Messiah went on to die – also at age 30, His ministry being 490 days, not 3½ years. Jesuits added two extra Passovers to the book of John to add the extra years. But, from the time Messiah began to speak, the Pharisees plotted Hs death. Yahushua grieved greatly when He heard of Yochanan’s death.

 **Matthew 14:1-13**: “At that time Herodes the district ruler heard the report about יהושע, [2](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-2.htm)and said to his servants, `This is Yoḥanan the Immerser. He has risen from the dead, and that is why these mighty powers are at work in him.’ [3](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-3.htm)For Herodes had arrested Yoḥanan, bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, [4](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-4.htm)for Yoḥanan had said to him, `It is not right for you to have her.’ [5](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-5.htm)And wishing to kill him, he feared the crowd, because they held him as a prophet. [6](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-6.htm)But as Herodes’ birthday was being held, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herodes, [7](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-7.htm)so he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. [8](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-8.htm)And she, being urged on by her mother, said, `Give me here the head of Yoḥanan the Immerser on a dish.’ [9](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-9.htm)And the sovereign was sad, but because of the oaths and the guests he commanded it to be given, [10](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-10.htm)and sent and beheaded Yoḥanan in prison. [11](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-11.htm)And his head was brought on a dish and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. [12](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-12.htm)And his taught ones came and took away the body and buried it, and went and reported to יהושע. [13](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-13.htm)Now when יהושע heard it, He withdrew from there by boat to a deserted place, by Himself. And when the crowds heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.”

 Yahushua knew it would not be many months before He would be hung on the stake, the tree, the pole.

 **Luke 9:7-9**: “And Herodes the district ruler heard of all that was done by Him, and was perplexed, because it was said by some that Yoḥanan had been raised from the dead, [**8**](https://biblehub.com/luke/9-8.htm)and by some that Ěliyahu had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets has risen up. [**9**](https://biblehub.com/luke/9-9.htm)And Herodes said, `Yoḥanan I have beheaded, but who is this of whom I hear such *reports*?’ And he was seeking to see Him.”

 Because of their close kinship, Messiah and Yochanan were a fearful duo to the Roman authorities. They feared both Yochanan and Messiah, and left them alone knowing they were spiritually far ahead of their “gods.”

 Many today will be martyred for their stand for Yahushua/Jesus. They will be beheaded (**Revelation 20:4, 6**). **You were born “for such a time as this.” You are a forerunner of Yahushua’s second coming**. You must not be involved in this world, attached to it in anyway, but be set-apart unto our commission to reach others with the Good News of salvation, at the same time prepare His people for His return. Yochanan pointed others to Yahushua. That is our task now - to be that voice in the wilderness of this world “prepare the way of Yahushua!”

In His shalom and love, Yedidah

January 31, 2021

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