

# John the Baptist

**TEXT:** John 1:15-30

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES:** Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3; James 5:20

**KEY VERSE:** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. — 1 Peter 3:15

The time—God's time—had arrived! The Messiah, Jesus, was about to be revealed to the world. People everywhere were groaning for deliverance from sin and God had now sent His “only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” But all the smallest details foretold in God's plan were to be accomplished. Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1 had spoken of a specific person who was first to come on the scene as the forerunner of Christ. He was John the Baptist.

**1.** Six months before Mary was told she was to give birth to the Son of God, who announced to Zacharias the birth of John the Baptist, and what was John's mission in life to be? See Luke 1:13-19.

**2.** Within this lesson's text, what was the theme of John the Baptist's remarks? Relate this theme to Isaiah 53:4-7, and tell in your own words what taking away the sin of the world might mean.

**3.** John the Baptist's chief mission on earth was \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, he was to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of the coming Christ. John even witnessed unselfishly to \_\_\_\_\_ and said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” See John 1:29 and 36.

**4.** What are the five questions the priests and Levites from Jerusalem asked John, and what answer did he give to each?

5. What did Jesus say about John the Baptist? See Luke 7:28

6. The word “witness” occurs at least seventeen times in the Gospel of John. Using a dictionary, define the word *witness*. How did this apply to John the Baptist? See John 1:34.

7. How does witnessing apply to Christians today? See Acts 1:8; 2:32.

8. What lesson could we learn concerning our witnessing for Christ from the fact that John said he was just a “voice”?

9. Think of several people you know who need a Christian witness. Then pray and purpose to seek the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit in witnessing to them and leading them to the Lord.

Thought Provoker: If you were to be paid \$10,000 for each soul you helped to win for Christ, how much harder would you be working at witnessing for Him?