

WAS JOHN “A BAPTIST”?

Johnie Edwards

A good friend and I was discussing John, The Baptist and I asked was John “A Baptist or John, The Baptist”? He responded: “I think the Scriptures support both.” Let’s see about that.

THE BAPTISTS WEAR JOHN’S NAME. Are you aware of the fact that “baptist” was not a part of John’s name? Luke 1:13 reports: “...and thou shalt call his name John.” Some wanted to call the boy, “Zacharias, after the name of his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John...” His father also “wrote, saying his name is John...” (Lk. 1:57-63).

JOHN WAS “THE BAPTIST.” The Scriptures often refer to John as “the Baptist.” “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea” (Mt. 3:1). More than a dozen times John is referred to as “John the Baptist.”

JOHN WAS THE ONLY BAPTIST. John is never called “a Baptist.” The reason for this is John was the only person to be called by that title. The title “baptist” attached to the name of John described what his work

was; he was the baptizer. In fact the Baptist Church produced a translation, *The American Bible Union* in 1877. Every time John is mentioned, they translated it “John the Immerser...” (Mt. 3:1). The Baptists saw that they were translating their name completely out of the Bible and took it off the market! I have a copy in my study.

JOHN’S FOLLOWERS. John baptized a lot of folks, including Jesus, but none of them were ever called baptist (Mt. 3:4-13). They were called “disciples” of John (Lk. 7:19). Any one out there want to show otherwise?

JOHN, A FRIEND OF JESUS. John 3:29 records: “*He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*” John was not the bridegroom, but a friend to Jesus, who was the bridegroom. Baptists are wearing the name of the “best man”, not that of the bridegroom, Christ! This is the reason we urge folks to wear the name “Christian” (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16).

JOHN NOT IN THE CHURCH. John was dead before Jesus uttered: “*I will build my church...*” (Mt. 16:18; Mk. 6:16-30). To help you know that

John was never in the New Testament church, please note: “*...Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven (the church, JE) is greater than he*” (Mt. 11:11). So, no way could John the Baptist ever been in the Lord’s church!

THINGS IN THE CHURCH

J.P. Edwards

The importance of the church can be seen by knowing what the Bible teaches is in the church. Whatever is said to be in Christ cannot be found outside of the Lord’s church. Sometimes Christians fail to see the importance of the church.

RECONCILIATION IS IN THE CHURCH. Isaiah taught that iniquity separates man from God (Is. 59:1-2). Man’s sin in the beginning of time brought about the need of reconciliation. Gentiles were reconciled by the blood of Jesus (Eph. 2:13). Man stands in need of reconciliation, because he is alienated and without God (Eph. 2:12). As long as one remains outside of the body, he is alienated from God. The church is important because in it one is reconciled or made at peace again with

God. The church has rightly been called the “vehicle of reconciliation”.

ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE IN THE CHURCH. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”* (Eph. 1:3). Every spiritual blessing offered to mankind can be found in the church. These blessings are heavenly, because they originated in heaven, and are unlike the blessings produced on earth. There is no need to search for spiritual blessings from any source but God. We receive these spiritual blessings when we are part of Christ’s body, the church.

REDEMPTION IS IN THE CHURCH. Redemption cannot be found outside of the body. Any accountable person outside of the church is unredeemed and in sin. Paul wrote, *“being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”* (Rom. 3:24). The Lord’s church is a body of redeemed individuals.

AN INHERITANCE IS IN

THE CHURCH. One becomes an heir of God by faith and baptism (Gal. 3:26-29). Jesus Christ offers an *“inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you”* (1 Pet. 1:4). Every heir of God today is in the church. The inheritance of God is reserved for those who are His sons and daughters.

Surely, one can begin to see the importance of the church.

IN THE BEGINNING

John Edwards

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). The book of Genesis is the beginning book of the Bible. The word “Genesis” means beginning; and that is exactly what this book sets forth. Genesis ascribes a beginning to all things, except God. Let’s notice some beginnings in the book of Genesis:

BEGINNING OF MAN. The book of Genesis affirms the beginning of man. *“And God*

said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him” (Gen. 1:26-27). You did not evolve from some lower order of life, but rather, are the result of direct creation!

BEGINNING OF SIN. When God placed man in the garden of Eden, He gave him law to abide by (Gen. 2:16-17). In Genesis 3:1-6, we read of the beginning of sin. When Satan appeared and *“beguiled Eve through his subtilty”* (2 Cor. 11:3), man transgressed the law of God and sin entered the world (1 Jn. 3:4).

BEGINNING OF THE HOPE OF REDEMPTION. God said to Satan, *“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”* (Gen. 3:15). This looked forward to the time when Christ, the seed of woman, would come into the world and make redemption from sin possible for man. *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...”* (Eph. 1:7).

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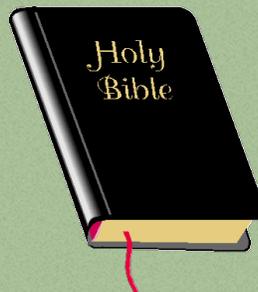
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