

The Gospel of John

1:19-34

I Religion Looking For a Great Leader (John 1:19-28)

- A. John the Baptist, envoy of the Christ, was questioned by the religious leaders as to his identity and he clearly stated he was not the Christ. (**vv19-20**) The religionists were not content with the reply but egged him on with more questions trying in vain to categorize him as a prophet, such as Elijah or the Prophet mentioned by Moses. (**v.21**)
1. The Jews were expecting Elijah to appear before the great and terrible day of Jehovah (**Mal.4:5**). This is connected to the coming of Elijah as one of the two witnesses that appear during the great tribulation (**Matt.24:21, 17:11, Rev.11:3**)
 2. Moses foretold that from the midst of God's people, the Jews, a Prophet would appear (**Deut.18:15, 18**) to whom people should listen because God's words would be in His mouth and He would speak to the people all that Jehovah commanded. According to Acts 3:20 and 22-23, the Prophet is Christ, i.e., He is the very God incarnated to be a man. This Prophet was to speak God's word to dispense God into man. However, the religious leaders had no realization of what they were asking of John.
- B. John declares that he is merely a voice of one crying out in the wilderness as Isaiah had prophesied. (**John 1:22-23, Isa.40:2**)
- C. The religious ones (**v.24**) demand to know why John is baptizing if he is not the Christ, Elijah or the Prophet (**v.25**) John explained that all he did was to baptize in water, i.e., to **terminate** people. He declared that among them, the coming messiah stood, the One who he was not worthy to serve. This One would baptize people in the Holy Spirit, thus **germinating** something in them of God. (**vv.26-28, 33**)

II Jesus Introduced as a Lamb with a Dove (John 1:29-34)

- A. The religious people were looking for a great leader, but Jesus was introduced to them as a little lamb with a little dove (**vv.29, 32**). The Lamb takes sin away from man, and the dove brings God as life to man. The Lamb is for redemption, to redeem fallen man back to God, and the dove is for life-giving, for anointing, to anoint man with what God is, to bring God into man and man into God, and for uniting the believers in God. Both the Lamb and the dove are needed for man to participate in God
- B. John says that this man, Christ, the Prophet, the messiah, Who was coming after him was ahead of him because He was before John. (**v.30**) John's testimony implies that this One was divine.
- C. John was baptizing in water so that the Christ might be manifested to Israel. (**V.31**) The Christ would be manifested not just as a deliverer but as the One with the abiding Spirit Who would baptize people with the Spirit. This man was qualified to be the Spirit-conveying Christ because he had upon Him the descending and abiding Spirit. (**vv.32-33**)
- D. This Spirit conveying Christ, Who is the Lamb with the Spirit, is the Son of God. (**v.34**).