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*When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.* We are looking at a singular time in the history of man a time when the two covenants of God overlap. John the Baptist being Elijah, the prophet sent to prepare the way of the Lord, the Messiah, the one sent to take away the sin of the world. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be *cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.* Jesus was coming to save the Church, His bride, being the *high priest of greater and more perfect tabernacle Heb 9:11* But when Christ came out the John in the wilderness He was still under the Law, the Covenant God made with Moses.

We are looking at that special moment, *when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, subject to the law. Gal 4:4* Christ was the Son of God and yet He had given all that up to be a man, *born under the Law.* He, our great high priest, was tempted by sin as we are but was able overcome and live a sinless life. The writer of Hebrews wrote, *we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Heb 4:14* Those words *tempted as we are, yet without sin* gives us hope for our lives for it is *Christ in us the hope of glory. Col 1:27.* Paul wrote in *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil 1:6* As Christians we live by *the power of the Spirit of the risen Christ empowering our mortal bodies, God's Spirit enabling us to live godly lives.*

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Rom 8:11*

But the time we are looking at we have Jesus, fully God, fully man, born under the dispensation of the Law, the Old Covenant, coming out to John the Baptist. Jesus, *born under the law, subject to the law. Gal 4:4,* comes out to John to be baptized.

*13Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. Matt 3:13-15*

*Hereafter, John should be the receiver and not the giver, but as yet there was a fitness in each retaining his position (the words "it becometh us" seem to refer to both, not to the speaker only). The word and the thought are the same as those of Hebrews 2:10. Even He had to pass through the normal stages of growth, and so an outward ordinance was even for Him the appointed way to the fulness of spiritual power. He was in His place receiving that rite. John was doing his proper work in administering it. Ellicott's Commentary*

John and Jesus both have there role, *to fulfill all righteousness.* Some how Jesus is *fulfilling all righteousness* in being baptized. It is fitting in a sense because Christ, even though He himself was without sin, He was to take on our sin. Paul wrote, *God made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Cor 5:21* And then too He was a Jew, born under the Law and here was John the Baptist, *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord," John 1:23* The one

who was to herald the arrival of the Christ. John had a baptism of water, a baptism of repentance, a baptism fitting for the Old Covenant when man could humble himself for violating God's Law but lacked the ability to live godly.

Awareness of the Law, what God's standards are, does not give us the ability to keep the Law. The Jews that came out to John knew that they were not able to keep God's commands and wanted God to move on their behalf. As Isaiah prophesied, *"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. Is 1:18* They cried out to be right with God and they knew that living good Jewish lives was not filling the void in their lives. Most were like Paul who knew the Law but found themselves not able to live up to it's standards. Paul wrote, *14For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. Rom 7:14,15* For these men and women John the Baptist crying in the wilderness presented the hope of God's visitation. The Pharisees wanted to be into the new thing, the excitement John was stirring but had no heart for revival. To these John proclaimed, *Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Mat 3:7*

John the Baptist knew his role, he came as a witness, *He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. John 1:7, 8* But the light had come, God was about to reveal Him to the world and John was His messenger, making straight His path. John's Gospel states,

*This was the true Light that, coming into the world, enlightens every person. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and yet the world did not know Him. 11He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him. 12But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, 13who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God. John 1:9-13*

Jesus, *the true Light*, the holy one of God was in the world. John states how blind the world and even God's people were, *the world came into being through Him, and yet the world did not know Him.* The creator of the world was in the world as a man, *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:3* Spiritual blindness was over the world, *He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him.* God was revealing His new plan of redemption, the New Covenant in Christ. Eph 1:7 states, *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace.* John declared over Jesus, *Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* John was passing the baton, the Old to the New.

*24Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27It is He who, coming after me, [i]is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."*

*29The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." 32And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit*

*descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’  
34And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” John 1:24-27, 28-34*

This is the transition, John was baptizing and then *Jesus was baptized too.*

*21When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened, 22and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” Luke 3:21-22*

The voice of God confirming who Jesus was, “*You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.*” Here we have God, God the Father from heaven declaring His pleasure in His Son. Luke writes, *the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a bodily form like a dove.* John had said that God gave Jesus *the Spirit without limit. John 3:34*

*Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matt 3:17*

God was pleased with Jesus; (1) He was pleased with the fact that Jesus had taken on the mission to be the Savior of sinners, *(And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14)* (2) God was pleased that Jesus that Jesus willingly emptied Himself of His eternal state in glory, *(He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped (held onto), 7 but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant Phil 2:6,7 Jesus, who was made [f]a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. Heb 2:9)* Jesus became the great High Priest of the New Covenant and gave His life as an atonement for sin (3) *(we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Heb 4:15)*

*To God be the glory, great things He hath done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.*

As God showed Himself to Abraham, Moses, and the prophets God showed Himself to Jesus, His son and always declared He was well pleased. As He did at the Transfiguration, *5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” Matt 17:5* In these last days, in the days of the NT God showed Himself by sending Son, born of a woman. *4But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons. Gal 4:4,5* As we look at Luke 3 we are considering that time, *the time had fully come, God sent His Son*

*1God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Heb 1:1-4*

We are considering the fulness of time, the time God chose to send His Son and usher in the redemption of man. So what is all this to us? We need to be, like John, voices in the wilderness, making straight the way of the Lord. If we know Christ we have seen the Great Light, the Lamb of God slain. Jesus said the least in the kingdom of God is greater than John thus we too have a great calling to declare the coming of the Savior of the World.