

Luke 3:1-20 The Holy Spirit and Fire

The promise, presence, and power of the Holy Spirit was made known to and demonstrated to Zacharias, Mary, and Elisabeth as the plan of YeHoVaH for the consolation, restoration, and salvation of Israel and the world unfolded.

The work of the Holy Spirit was on full display as John the Baptist, his mother, and his father were filled with the Holy Spirit as the first Spirit filled family. John grew, waxed strong in the Spirit, and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

John's life and message was a fulfillment of prophecy as he was that voice in the wilderness preparing the way for Yeshua. John's message was simple and to the point as he baptized all who came to him in Jordan.

On one occasion John stated:

"I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:"

What did John mean?

Lk 3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

When John started his Prophetic Ministry, Israel had been divided into Roman regions. Judaea was ruled by Pontius Pilate and Herod's sons had been reduced to Tetrarchs over Roman occupied regions in Galilee and the surrounding regions into Syria.

Lk 3:2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

At the time of John's and Yeshua's Ministries, Israel had two recognized High Priests.

The high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas. Annas was high priest from A.D. 6 until he was deposed by the Roman official Gratus in 15. He was followed by his son Eleazar, his son-in-law Caiaphas and then four more sons. Even though Rome had replaced Annas, the Jews continued to recognize his authority (see Jn 18:13; Ac 4:6); so Luke included his name as well as that of the Roman appointee, Caiaphas.

The Word of God came unto John.

Several prophetic words had been given about John before he was conceived and after he was born that had been fulfilled.

He would be filled with the Holy Spirit while in his mother's womb.

Lk 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Fulfilled when his mother, Elisabeth, was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Lk 1:41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

He would be a prophet of the Most High as prophesied by his father, Zacharias the Priest, when he was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.

Lk 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

Lk 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; Lk 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

Lk 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

Lk 1:79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

When John the Baptist became a man, filled with the Holy Spirit, he fulfilled those prophecies that were spoken about him.

Lk 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

John's message was the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Lk 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Lk 3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

Lk 3:6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Sometimes when words are translated to another language, the words may not translate properly. The translators translated Isaiah's prophecy from the "Glory" of God to the salvation of God.

Isa 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isa 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

Isa 40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Yeshua was, is, and will be at His return the visible manifestation of the Glory of YeHoVaH just as YeHoVaH revealed His Glory in the Old Testament via the pillar of Fire by night and the Cloud by day.

John's message was a hellfire and brimstone type message that provoked a response from the listener to do something.

Lk 3:7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Wrath – 3709 ὀργή orge {or-gay'}

Meaning: 1) anger, the natural disposition, temper, character 2) movement or agitation of the soul, impulse, desire, any violent emotion, but esp. anger 3) anger, wrath, indignation 4) anger exhibited in punishment, hence used for punishment itself 4a) of punishments inflicted by magistrates Usage: AV - wrath 31, anger 3, vengeance 1, indignation 1; 36

John the Baptist warned people of the wrath to come. John's message was a message of repentance and upon hearing John's message, it provoked a response from the people seeking to avoid the wrath that was coming to those who did not repent.

John demanded fruit (Karpas), visible works, with weight demonstrating repentance, not simply words.

Lk 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

John's statement spoke to the pride of the people of being the chosen ones, the prophesied seed of Abraham, the children of the promise, children of the Most High God. It is the same type of pride exhibited by some Jews or Hebrews today.

Lk 3:9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Each Gospel writer, including Luke, speaks of fire in relation to burning something in actual fire.

Matthew 3:10 (KJV)

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Mark 9:22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

John 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast [them] into the fire, and they are burned.

Fire in Revelation relates to judgment and punishment, specifically the Lake of Fire.

The Wheat and the Tares

Mt 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Lk 3:10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

When asked by the people what they were to do, John gave examples of fruits, works, and actions which would demonstrate that they got the message.

Lk 3:11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

Lk 3:12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

Lk 3:13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

Lk 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

Lk 3:15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

Lk 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

The Holy Ghost's Role in Our Lives

Jn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

To Anoint Us

1Jn 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Empower Us To Be Witnesses of Yeshua and Testify to the Truth of the Word

Ac 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

To Enable Us to Manifest the Gifts of the Spirit

1Co 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

To Produce the Fruit of the Spirit in Our Lives

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Yeshua will baptize us with the Holy Ghost and fire.

And – 2532 καί kai {kahee}

Meaning: 1) and, also, even, indeed, but

Luke uses the Greek word Kai in various English words in this Chapter.

Luke 3:12 (KJV) Then came **also** publicans to be baptized, **and** said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

Luke 3:14 (KJV) **And** the soldiers **likewise** demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse [any] falsely; and be content with your wages.

Luke 3:20 (KJV) Added **yet** this above all, **that** he shut up John in prison.

Lk 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with **fire unquenchable**.

The fire, according to John is unquenchable.

Unquenchable – 762 ἄσβεστος asbestos {as'-bes-tos}

Meaning: 1) unquenched, unquenchable 1a) of eternal hell fire to punish the damned

Usage: AV - unquenchable 2, never shall be quenched 2; 4

Lk 3:18 And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

Lk 3:19 But Herod the tetrarch, being reproved by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

Lk 3:20 Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.