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John the Baptist's Testimony about Jesus



Many believers see **John the Baptist** as a shadowy figure. Certainly **he** baptized people. Some know **he** lived in the desert and ate **locusts** and **honey**. Those who study the Scriptures may even know **he** was the forerunner of **the Meshiach**. But, that's about it. Yet, **Yeshua** said of **him**: **Yes! I tell you that among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than Yochanan the Immerser (Mattityahu 11:11 CJB)!** From Doctor **Luke**, a physician by training, we learn that **John** was born an only child to an aging priest, **Zechariah**, and **his** barren wife, **Elizabeth** (**to see link click Ao – The Birth of John the Baptist**). **His** birth caused quite a stir to everyone in the Judean hill country, not only because of **his** astonishing birth, but also because of the way **he** lived. A **Nazirite** from birth, **he** did not cut **his** hair, touch anything dead, nor partake of anything of the vine – no wine, no grapes or no raisins **(Numbers 6:2-6)**. **ADONAI** had chosen **him**, even before **his** birth, to be **the forerunner** of **the Messiah** (see **Ak – The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold**).

When **John** came out of the wilderness to confront and convict the nation of Isra'el of her sin, **he** looked and sounded and acted very differently from the religious elite

of Jerusalem that the people were used to hearing. **John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey (Mark 1:6).** Whereas the Sadducees, Pharisees, chief priests, Torah-teachers and Herodians robed themselves in the finest clothes and treated themselves to meat and wine, **Yochanan** stood gaunt from a life set apart for **ADONAI** and leathery from the sun.

His message was just as basic as **his** appearance: **Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near (Mt 3:2)**! So, when **the Pharisees and Sadducees** came from Jerusalem to see what **he** and **his** movement was all about – **he** told them in no uncertain terms: **You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham (Mt 3:7-9).**

Wow, did **they** ever hate **him**! **They** would have killed **him** right there on the spot if **he** were not surrounded by growing multitudes of people who genuinely repented of their sin. But, while **John the Immerser** was as extraordinary as any mere human could be, **he** was nonetheless, **a man**. Just **a man**. Therefore, **John**, the inspired author of **his g**ospel, introduces **him** simply as **a man sent from God whose name was Yochanan (John 1:6).** In the next two files, we will see what made this mere **man** so special.[287]