

Christ Baptizing in Judea

John 3:22-24

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Text:

John 3:22-24,

22. After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.

23. Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

24. (This was before John was put in prison.)

Commentary:

John 3:22, After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.

I. “After these things...” includes the events surrounding the cleansing of the temple, miracles at Jerusalem and meeting with Nicodemus.

II. “Into the land of Judaea;” that is, away from Jerusalem where he had met with Nicodemus, etc.

A. While the Scriptures do not specifically identify the area, some commentators believe it was “not far from Jericho near the Fords of the Jordan.”

B. The gospel was to be preached first to the Jews. Judaea was the center for Jews. Jesus’ first major outreach was to Jews in Judaea.

C. Luke 24:27, And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

D. Acts 1:8, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

E. This Judaeen ministry lasted from May to December.

III. “His disciples...” include the six previously named; viz., Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, and Nathaniel (Bartholomew). Whether others were included is not known.

IV. “He tarried with them and baptized.”

A. John 4:2, although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.

B. Jesus increased while John declined.

John 3:23, 24, Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. (This was before John was put in prison.)

I. At the same time John continued to preach and baptize as well.

A. The exact locations of Aenon and Salim are not known.

B. The important thing is that “much water was there” allowing for many immersions without difficulty.

II. John was able to continue his ministry because he had not yet been cast into prison.

III. During the early ministry of Christ, both he and John worked in a parallel manner preaching and baptizing.

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Questions

1. _____ and his _____ went out into the _____, where he spent some time with them, and _____.

2. _____ also was _____ at _____ near _____, because there was _____ of _____ at that place.

3. Why did John's baptizing require much or plenty of water? _____

4. People were _____ coming to John to be baptized. All this happened before _____ was put in _____.

5. "After these things, after this" in verse 22 refers to such events as the _____ of the _____ at _____ and meeting with _____.

6. Did Jesus actually himself ever baptize anyone? Compare John 4:2 with John 3:22. _____

7. During this period lasting from _____ to _____, both _____ and _____ were active in ministry.

8. What disciples were with Jesus in the Judean countryside at this time?
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____
(_____)?

9. Jesus _____ in prominence while John _____.

10. "Into the land of Judea" means _____ from _____, into the _____.

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