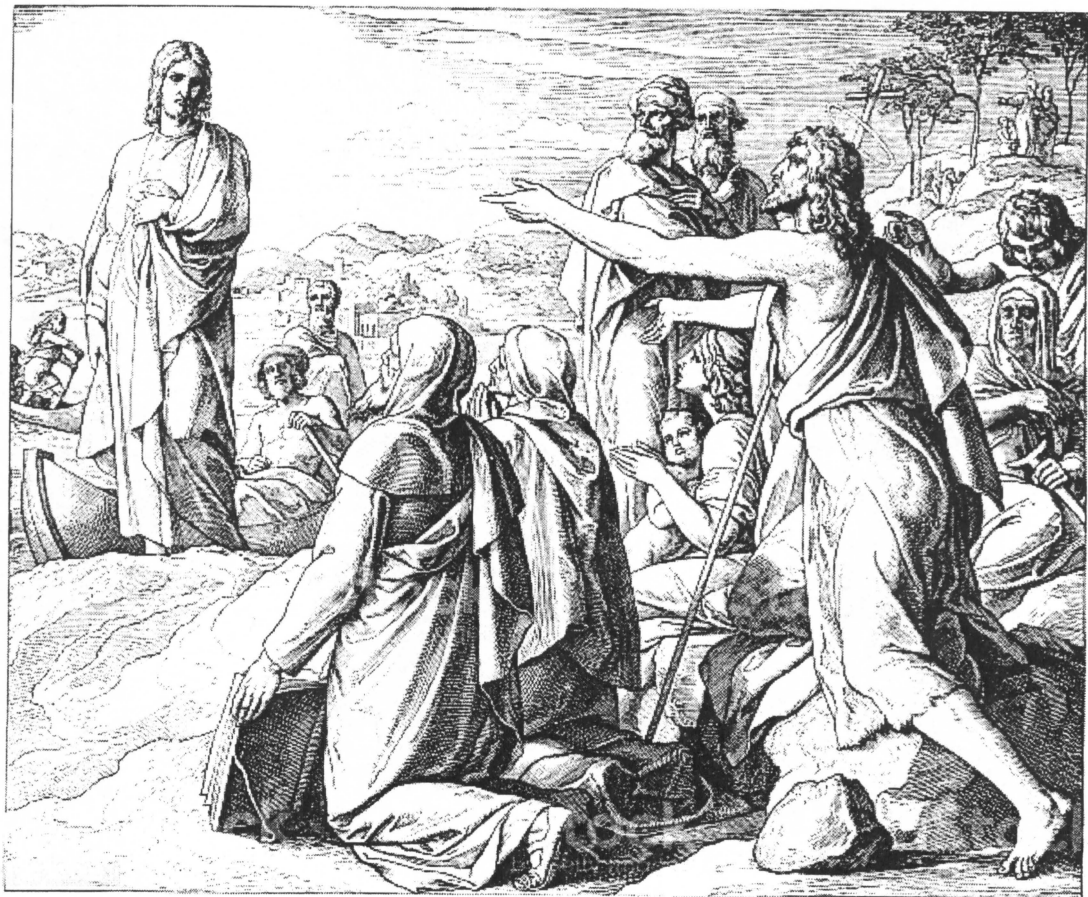


John the Baptist and Jesus Christ

Amazing Parallels and Contrasts



AMAZING PARALLELS AND CONTRASTS BETWEEN JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JESUS CHRIST

PARALLELS	
John the Baptist	Jesus Christ
Both fulfilled OT prophecy	
Isa. 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.	Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called` Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
They were both prophets	
Matt. 11:9 But what went you out for to see? [John] A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.	Deut. 18:15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear
Their parents were righteous	
Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.	Matt. 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.
The birth was predicted by an angel	
Luke 1:13 But the angel said unto him . . . your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.	Matt. 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. [Mary, Luke 1:35]
The conception was supernatural	
Luke 1:7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.	Luke 1:35a And the angel answered and said to her, <i>The</i> Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;
The first angelic words were "Fear not"	
Luke 1:13a But the angel said unto him, Fear not , Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard	Luke 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.
Both mothers were steeped in the Old Testament	
Luke 1:43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?	Luke 1:46-55 The Magnificat contains 15 references to the O.T.
The infants recognized each other before birth	
Luke 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.	Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

The name was given by an angel	
Luke 1:13 And the angel said unto him . . . thou shalt call his name John.	Matt. 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.
The name was given at birth as told	
Luke 1:63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.	Mt. 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.
There was joy at the birth	
Luke 1:14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.	Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
The response at the birth was amazement	
Luke 1:63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.	Luke 2:18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
Both Jesus and John were filled with the Holy Ghost at birth	
Luke 1:15b And he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.	Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness
Both were great in God's sight	
Luke 1:15a For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord	Luke 1:35b Therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
Both births elicited special revelation	
Luke 1:67-79 Zacharias	Luke 2:29ff. Simeon
The news of the birth spread widely	
Luke 1:65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.	Luke 2:17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
The news of the birth was proclaimed by common people	
Luke 1:65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.	Luke 2:18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
The news involved Christ's rule	
Luke 1:69 Zacharias: And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.	Luke 1:32 The angel: He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.
The news involved redemption	
Luke 1:77 Zacharias: To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.	Luke 2:38 Anna: And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

The news involved peace	
<p>Luke 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.</p>	<p>Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.</p>
Salvation would be offered to Jews and Gentiles alike	
<p>Luke 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us</p>	<p>Luke 2:32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.</p>
Both individuals would be betrayed by cowards	
<p>Herod Antipas Mt. 14:9 And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her.</p>	<p>Pontius Pilate Mt. 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.</p>
Both John and Jesus died a violent death	
<p>Mt. 14:10 And they sent and beheaded John in prison.</p>	<p>Mt. 27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots.</p>

CONTRASTS	
<p>The father was a Levite Lk. 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.</p>	<p>Adopted father was of royal lineage Mt 1:16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.</p>
<p>The father was a priest Lk. 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.</p>	<p>Human father was a carpenter/stonemason Mt. 13:55a Is not this the carpenter's son?</p>
<p>Father's home was in Judea Lk. 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.</p>	<p>Father's home was in Galilee Lk. 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,</p>
<p>Zacharias did not believe the angel Luke 1:20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.</p>	<p>Joseph always believed and obeyed Mt. 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.</p>
<p>The angel appeared while the father was ministering Luke 1:8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,</p>	<p>The angel appeared always while Joseph was asleep Mt. 1:20; 2:13, 19, 22</p>

John prepared the way for the Messiah 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. [Mal. 3:1-6]	Jesus was the Way John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
The news of the birth first came to relatives Lk. 1:58 And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.	The news of the birth came to the shepherds Lk. 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
Elizabeth was old in years Lk. 1:7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.	Mary was apparently young Lk. 1:27 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.
John the Baptist had no siblings	Jesus had human siblings Mt. 13:55-56 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

Observation:

Mt. 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Why did our Lord honor John the Baptist with the magnificent title of the greatest of all the prophets, under the Law? Four reasons have been suggested:

1. John the Baptist was a subject of ancient prophecies and had long been expected by the Jews under the character of Elijah, a prediction made by Malachi, because John was to possess the spirit and power of Elijah.
2. His conception and birth were accompanied by stupendous miracles.
3. John the Baptist appears to have been favored with a clearer revelation concerning the Messiah than has been enjoyed by any other prophet under the Law, with the possible exception of Isaiah.
4. By his preaching, John prepared the Jews for receiving the Messiah and His gospel (Jn. 1:15-34).

In what way is the least in the kingdom of heaven greater than John?

1. The statement is one of comparison, not a superlative, thus, "one who is lesser," not "one who is least."
2. The greater privilege refers, in part, to the fact that the believer in Christ has a fuller knowledge of matters relating to the gospel, including the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior.

3. John, the forerunner, while spiritually and physically related to Christ, did not enjoy the close relationship that the church age believer does who is a member of the family of God. He is part of (a) the Bride of Christ through marriage, (b) a child of God through the new birth and (c) a son of God through adoption.
4. The universal and permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit and His enablement far surpass the Spirit's ministry to even the greatest of Old Testament saints.

