

**EXPLORING GOD'S WORD
TEACHER'S GUIDE: LESSON 6B**

*[Assigned Reading: Matthew 1-4, Luke 1-4]
[Themes to Teach: Incarnation & Oneness of God]*

I. JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS THE FORERUNNER OF CHRIST:

- a. Prophecy concerning John's ministry: (Read Isaiah 40:3 & Malachi 3:1)
- b. John's mission:
 - i. To prepare the way for the Messiah
 - ii. To identify the Messiah for Israel

John 1:32-33 (KJV 1900)

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

- c. John's message:

Matthew 3:11 (KJV 1900)

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

- i. Repentance:
- ii. Baptism in water:
- iii. Holy Spirit baptism:

II. THE BIRTH OF JESUS WAS FORETOLD BY THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS:

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

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.

- a. Born of a virgin: (Fulfilled in Matthew 1:22-23)

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

- b. Born in Bethlehem: (Fulfilled in Luke 2:1-4)

Micah 5:2 (NKJV)

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

- c. Born to be a Savior:

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Jesus was perfect humanity and very deity in one person – He was both God and man. (See Colossians 2:9 & 1 Timothy 3:16)

III. JESUS SPENT 40 DAYS IN THE WILDERNESS BEING TEMPTED OF THE DEVIL:

(Read Matthew 4:1-11)

- a. The temptation of Christ proved His humanity.
- b. He was tempted in all points like us, yet without sin (Read Hebrews 4:15-16)
- c. Jesus was tempted in three ways:
 - i. Turn stones to bread to abate His hunger.
 - ii. Worship Satan to inherit the kingdoms of the earth.
 - iii. Jump from the pinnacle of the temple to prove Himself.

These three areas of temptation correspond to the three categories of sin given by the apostle John. (Read 1 John 2:15-16)

All that is in the world is the lust of the flesh (appetite), the lust of the eyes (greed), and the pride of life (pride).

This was the same type of temptation faced by Adam & Eve:

Genesis 3:6 (NKJV)

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Jesus is the second Adam. He came to fight the same battle of temptation lost by Adam & Eve in the Garden and to win back the dominion lost.

The temptation proved He was sinless and qualified Him to be our substitute.

IV. JESUS HAD AN UNPRECEDENTED MINISTRY OF MIRACLES:**Isaiah 35:5-6 (NKJV)**

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

Jesus frequently pointed to His miracles as proof of who He was. (Read Matthew 11:2-6)

The miracles of Jesus proved His deity. (Read John 14:10-11)