

Scripture

John 1:6-9,19-28 (NLT)

Prologue: Christ, the Eternal Word

1:6 God sent a man, John the Baptist, 7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

- 19 This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" 20 He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."
- 21 "Well then, who are you?" they asked.
"Are you Elijah?"
"No," he replied.
"Are you the Prophet we are expecting?"
"No."

22 “Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?”

23 John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Clear the way for the Lord’s coming!’”

24 Then the Pharisees who had been sent 25
asked him, “If you aren’t the Messiah or
Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you
have to baptize?”

- 26 John told them, “I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize.
- 27 Though his ministry follows mine, I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.”
- 28 This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.