

Called for a Crisis

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 1:19.

B. John the Baptist came preparing the people for revival.

II. John the Baptist's testimony.

A. John made it clear that he was not Messiah.

B. God made it clear that there would be a reappearance of Elijah before the Messiah but John said he was not the reincarnated Elijah either. (Malachi)

1. Reincarnation is a deceptive teaching.

2. It is the devil's substitute for the resurrection.

3. Jesus Himself though calls John Elijah in a sense of prophetic fulfillment.

C. John denies being the prophet. (Deuteronomy 28)

D. John simply calls himself one crying out in the wilderness for repentance in preparation of Messiah. (Isaiah)

III. John's recognition of Jesus.

A. The emphasis is not on what John does (baptizing with water), but who he is in contrast to Jesus.

B. This takes place after Jesus' baptism and His temptation.

C. John is able to recognize Jesus because of the book of Isaiah 53.

D. We see the promise of Messiah throughout the entire Old Testament.

E. John did not know Jesus as the Messiah at first, although he doubtless knew him as a boy.

F. John is saying that he only deals with the outside, but that Jesus will deal with the inside by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

G. John also claims that Jesus is the Son of God, which is more than the Messiah—the only one who can satisfy our hearts.

Application questions:

1. How does John's testimony set up Jesus?

2. How is John able to recognize Jesus and how can we do the same in light of this?

3. Who is Jesus and why is He more than Messianic Savior in light of the message?
