

John Baptist to Jesus: The Succession Plan

Bible Names are easy to confuse due to repetitions and similarities:

- 1) John the Baptist (Luke 1:13 Son of Zechariah/Elizabeth & Luke 7:33 'Baptist added')
- 2) John Father of Apostle Peter (John 1:42 "Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas", which is translated Peter.)
- 3) John the Apostle -Son of Zebedee, Brother of James (Mark 1:19, Matt 4:21, Luke 5:10), also supposed to be 'Beloved Disciple'-the Evangelist . Comes to be 'Beloved Disciple as Source' intimate with Christ details as in the closest at Last Supper Jn 13:23,25, followed Peter to palace after Jesus arrest Jn18:15, stood with Mary at Cross and took her in Jn 19:25,27, with Peter at Tomb Jn 20:2-10 and first named of seven at Seashore Morning Appearance Jn 21:7; also Acts 3:1, 4:3 8:14 pairs John with Peter)
Another issue: author of Revelation calls himself, "John" in Rev 1:1, 4, 9; 22:8; link traditionally between Revelation, Gospel and Letters is mostly thematic, not direct ID!
- 4) John Mark – described through Acts of Apostles "John whose other name was Mark" (Acts 12:12) A sometime Companion of Paul
- 5) John, a member of the High Priest's family—Acts mentions this one at the trial of Peter, "The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family" (Acts 4:5-6 a priest?).

How many Mary's?

- 1) Mary mother of Jesus (Luke 1:32). She lived in Nazareth before her marriage. She became the wife of Joseph and the mother of Jesus. Luke 1:35 details her conversation with the angel Gabriel concerning her calling to bear the Messiah. Mary was related by marriage to Elizabeth who confirmed the words of Gabriel to Mary when she went to stay with Elizabeth and Zacharias. Her husband Joseph, a carpenter, was a righteous man (Matthew 1:19) who was merciful and compassionate. Mary also had other children (Mark 6:3)
- 2) Mary Magdalene was from the town of Magdala, on the western shore of Lake Tiberius. She was apparently wealthy and one of the women who financially supported Jesus' earthly ministry (Luke 8:3). Also, at tomb announcement appearance e' John 20:1, & 20:11
- 3) Mary of Clopas by name only mentioned in John 19:25 by the cross. (and among the women not named of Mk 15:40 Matt 27:56)
- 4) Mary, mother of John Mark Acts 12:12 "When Peter realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who is called Mark, where there were many people gathered in prayer."
- 5) Mary, friend to Paul--- Romans 16:6 "Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you."

How many Simons (or James, or Judas' etc?)

- 1) Simon Peter, Galilean fisherman, an apostle of Jesus Christ in Matt. 4:18; 10:2
- 2) Simon, called the "Canaanite," apostle in Matthew 10:4 and Mark 3:18
- 3) Simon the 'Zealot' apostle (same as 2?) in Luke 6:15 & Acts 1:13
- 4) Simon, brother? of Lord in Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3
- 5) Simon Leper, in Bethany, in whose house the head of Jesus was anointed with oil in Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8
- 6) Simon the Cyrenian who was compelled to bear the cross after Jesus and who was the father of Alexander and Rufus in Matt. 27:32
- 7) Simon the Pharisee in whose house Jesus dined and had His feet washed with tears and anointed with ointment in Luke 7:40-44
- 8) Simon, father of Judas Iscariot in John 6:71; 12:4; 13:2, 26

- 9) Simon Magus, - A sorcerer in Samaria who sought to purchase the gifts of the Spirit with money in Acts 8:9-24

SO, What relation is there between John the Baptist and the 4th Evangelist?

The 4th Evangelist never uses the designation 'Baptist' for John. Only simple name 'John' in John 1:6-9, 15, 19-23, 24-28, 29-34, 35-42; 3:23-30; 4:1, 5:33,35 and 10:40-41.

Is 4th evangelist a disciple (confidant) of the 'baptizer'? ***Humbly avoids naming himself to 'honor' Name John***
John 1:35-37 "The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples (***1 the evangelist?***) heard what he said & followed Jesus."

The Baptizer goes to great length to disappear from the scene, and open way to the Messiah Jesus.

John 1:19-21 When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites [to him] to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah. So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No.

John 1:23 When asked 'what do you say for yourself', Joh only quotes scripture not anything original "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert "Make straight the way of the Lord" (Isa 40:3)

John 1:30 "A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me... vs 33-34 the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, *he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.*' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

*John's teaching and baptism is only about **water**, but Jesus brings 'the Holy Spirit and Fire' Mt 3:11 & Lk 3:16; John 1:33 and Mark 1:8 only say bring 'Holy Spirit'!*

Events after the Cana Miracle of chapter 2- attempt to get past/beyond water baptism

John 3:22 "After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea, where he spent some time with them baptizing. John was also baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was an abundance of water there, and people came to be baptized,"

John 3:25-26 "Now a dispute arose between the disciples of John and a Jew about ceremonial washings. So they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing and everyone is coming to him."

John 4:1-3 "Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John(although Jesus himself was not baptizing, just his disciples), he left Judea and returned to Galilee."

So again, John's teaching & practice was only about water (like Jewish washings). Jesus brings Holy Spirit.

John 3:29-30 "The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens to him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made complete."

He must increase; I must decrease."

Luke 9: 18-19 "Jesus asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, 'One of the ancient prophets has arisen.'"

Earlier, Herod was confused and supposed Jesus was John come back from dead in Luke 9:7

Needed a Proper handover of John's following on to Jesus when Jesus appeared on scene.

John 1:29 & 36 "Behold the Lamb of God" -He is the ONE! Verse 37 "The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus."

Matthew 11:2-3 "When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Mutual Validation between John and Jesus "I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist.." Matthew 11:11 & Luke 7:28 (Shine, but not too bright)

Be careful not to miss the stars for the finger pointing; don't mistake messenger for the message!