



Was John a Baptist?

The following is an excerpt from The Bible Banner, August 1942. The article reflects views concerning the position of T.G. Duckworth in a 1942 April 10th issue of **The Orthodox Baptist Searchlight**.

“Then Jesus took from that forerunner's baptism (John a Baptist preacher) and organized his (Jesus') church, not churches. This was the beginning of church organization. Jesus organized his church! Then the devil started to work and began to cause the falling away. Strife, deception, rule or ruin, and he saw that he could not rule God's church, so he fell out and laid the cornerstone for his churches, which run into the hundreds of the so-called churches. * * * ** John was the forerunner of Jesus, sent by God as the first and permanent trail blazer, that through his work Jesus could come and select material with which he could build that old fashioned Landmark Baptist Church.”

The scriptures nowhere refer to John as “a Baptist preacher” or “a Baptist.” The scriptures refer to John as “the Baptist,” i.e., John was a baptizer, and refers to his vocation, not a religious affiliation.

Regarding the statement “that through his work (John's, emph. mine), Jesus could come and select material with which he could build that old fashioned Landmark Baptist Church.” The scriptures are likewise silent regarding the building of any “Baptist Church.” Contrarywise, when Paul found certain disciples that had been baptized into John's baptism, after his instructions, “they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 19:1-5).

Jesus said, “I will build *my* church” (Matt. 16:18). ret