

## Questions on Matthew chapter 3

1. Approximately how long was it from the end of chapter 2 to the beginning of chapter 3? Verse 1.
2. Why was John called the baptist? Verse 1.
3. Why do you think John began his ministry in the wilderness? Why not go where the people live? Verse 1.
4. What was the central theme of John's preaching? Verse 2.
5. What was John's basic purpose for coming to preach his special message? What was John to accomplish? Verse 3.
6. Why do you think John preached the way he did and dressed the way he did? Verses 3-4.
7. Why was Israel not ready for the Messiah's coming? Verses 5-6.

8. Why do you think John spoke so disrespectfully of the Pharisees and Sadducees? Do you think John's harsh language was partly responsible for their rejection of him and "the counsel of God"? Verse 7. (See Luke 7:30)

9. Did John expect people to show the genuineness of their repentance before he would baptize them, or did he expect such fruits of repentance to be seen in their lives after baptism as the natural result of their repentance? Verse 8.

10. Why did most Israelites think they were already safe? Verse 9.

11. How does the figure of the axe and the trees correct the mistaken idea in verse 9? Verse 10.

12. What is repentance? How can baptism be "unto repentance"? Verse 11.

13. What promise did John make regarding the coming of Jesus, and what is meant by the various terms of that promise? (That is: What, when, where, upon whom, etcetera) Verse 11.

14. Please explain what is meant by the following allusions:

Make straight paths: (Verse 3)

Generation of vipers: (Verse 7)

Axe is laid at the root of the trees: (Verse 10)

His fan is in his hand: (Verse 12)

15. What are the differences in John's baptism and that in Acts chapter 2?

16. Do you think Jesus really needed to be immersed by John? If so, why? If not, why not? Verse 13.

17. Why do you think John considered himself in need of immersion by Jesus instead of Jesus having need of John's baptism? Verse 14.

18. What do these phrases mean? Verse 15.

It becometh us:

To fulfill all righteousness:

He suffered Him:

19. What took place immediately following Jesus' baptism? Verse 16.

20. What did the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus mean to John? Verse 16. (See John 1:33-34)

21. Why did God speak from heaven in this manner and on this occasion? Verse 17.

Thought question:

22. What is the demonstration in your life that you too have genuinely repented?