

He Must Increase

by G.W. North

John's ministry was a heraldic call to repentance, emphasizing the importance of baptism as a symbol of annunciation, preparation, and restoration.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1, Matthew 3:11, Matthew 28:19, Mark 1:4, Luke 1:15, Luke 3:16, John 1:29, John 3:30, Acts 19:4

Topics: "Baptism", "The Role of John the Baptist"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes the unique role of John the Baptist as God's deliberate messenger, highlighting his greatness compared to the patriarchs and prophets. Filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, John inaugurated the ministry of baptism, embodying the spirit of Elijah and serving as the forerunner of Christ. His ministry focused on three key aspects: Annunciation, Preparation, and Restoration, all centered around the act of baptism. Through baptism, John announced Jesus as the Son of God, prepared the way for His ministry, and demonstrated the promise of restoration through the Holy Spirit. John's heraldic ministry set the stage for the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Transcript

John was sent deliberately by God as no-one else before him. In many respects none of those who were regarded as the great men of the Patriarchal or Israelitish eras was as great as he. On the human side he was cousin to the Lord Jesus and was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. Though he represented the law and the prophets, in his ministry he superseded both it and them -- and their combined messages.

John was the first man sent to preach the Kingdom of Heaven and officially inaugurate baptism among men. He embodied the spirit and power of Elijah and was the forerunner of the Christ, in which capacity he came with a ministry of Annunciation, Preparation and Restoration. These three emphases run concurrently throughout his entire ministry, which was heraldic in nature and symbolic in demonstration. Baptism was the focal point, the all-important feature; everything led up to, centred around and depended upon BAPTISM. By baptism:

- (1) the annunciation was made: 'This is my beloved Son', 'This is the Son of God';
- (2) the preparation was effected: 'I baptise you', 'He shall baptise you';

(3) Restoration was demonstrated: 'I with water', 'He with the Holy Ghost and fire'.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/gw-north/he-must-increase/>

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