

John 1:19-28 **John Identifies Himself**

The Pharisees sent Priests and Levites question John about his identity

19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

And he answered, "No."

22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"

23 He said: "I am

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Make straight the way of the LORD," "

as the prophet Isaiah said."

Why do you baptize?

24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

✚ Priests and Levites from the Pharisees came to question John regarding his identity. [John 1:19-22, 24]

✧ They asked according to the speculation that was going around where some thought he was the **Christ**, **Elijah**, or "**The Prophet**." These are the same guesses they made concerning the identity of Jesus. [Matthew 16:13-14, Mark 6:14-16, 8:27-28, Luke 9:7-9, Luke 9:18-19]

✧ The Jews were then as they are now, looking for the anointed One (**Messiah – Christ**) who would appear, to deliver them from their enemies and establish His eternal Kingdom. [Genesis 49:10, 18, Isaiah 11:1-16, 19:20, Jeremiah 23:5-6, 33:14-16, Zechariah 3:8-10, 6:12-13]

✧ They were also looking for **Elijah** to come before the Day of Yehowah. [Malachi 4:4-6]

✧ They were also looking for "**The Prophet**" like Moses. [Deuteronomy 18:15-19]

John Answered

✚ He said: "I am

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Make straight the way of the LORD," "

as the prophet Isaiah said." [John 1:23, Isaiah 40:3]

Why do you baptize?

✚ Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" [John 1:24-25]

John Answered

✚ John answered them, saying,

"I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." [\[John 1:26-27, Matthew 3:11-12, Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:16-17\]](#)

✚ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. [\[John 1:28\]](#)

✧ Bethabara was the place of the ford where Israel had first crossed over the Jordan River when they entered the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. It was at the place where the stones from the river had been placed on the land and twelve stones were set up in the midst of the river where the priests feet had stood as a memorial of their crossing on dry ground when the river was at flood stage. [\[Joshua 4:1-9\]](#)