

## **Freedom Study: The Testimony of John**

1:29. On the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

The day following Jesus came to John as he was baptizing in the Jordan and the moment he saw Him the Holy Spirit within John confirmed that Jesus was the Christ (Luke 1:15). John identifies Him to the crowds as "the Lamb of God". The people would understand what John was saying for they were accustomed to the daily offering of a lamb morning and evening in the Temple (Ex. 29:38-39) also in keeping the Passover; although they would not accept that the Messiah would be "led as a lamb to the slaughter" (Isa. 53:7). He further declares Him to be the One who "takes away the sin of the world". While the Jews were familiar with a lamb being offered for their sins the idea of One being offered to take away the sin of the world was beyond them. Later in His ministry Jesus would declare that it was because God so loved the world that He gave His Son (John 3:16). First of all then John bore testimony that Jesus Christ was the one who would give his life upon the cross as a sacrifice for the sin of the world, for your sin and mine.

1:30. This is the one about whom I said, 'After me comes a man who is greater than I am, because he existed before me.'

He confirms that this is the one he meant when he said that someone greater than he was amongst them. In doing so he bears witness to the pre-eminence of Christ, that He is far above all (Eph.1:21 and Col. 1:18). He also testifies to the pre-existence of Christ as the apostle John has already said at the beginning of the chapter.

1:31. I did not recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he could be revealed to Israel."

Although John and Jesus were related (Mary and Elizabeth) he did not know him to be the Christ until Jesus came to be baptized by him. The reason why John was baptizing the people was in preparation for the revealing of the Messiah to the people of Israel.

1:32. Then John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending like a dove from heaven, and it remained on him.

He continues to give a witness that he saw the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus in the shape of a dove and remained upon Him (Mark 1:10).

1:33. And I did not recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining — this is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

He again states that he did not know or recognize that Jesus was the Christ until this happened but that God who had sent him to baptize in water told him that the one whom he saw the Holy Spirit descend and remain upon He is the Christ, the Anointed One (Isa. 61:1). This is the One will not baptize those who have received Him as their Savior in the Holy Ghost.

1:34. And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.

Finally John bears record that he saw this happen and testifies that Jesus is the Son of God even as the voice from heaven declared (Matt. 3:17).

### **A Personal Introduction to Christ**

1:35-36. Again the next day John was standing there with two of his disciples. Gazing at Jesus as he walked by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

The day after John had identified Jesus as the Lamb of God, some time after Christ's baptism and temptation, John again saw Jesus walking by. As he stood with two of his disciples he once more said "Look! The Lamb of God!" John was deliberately trying to draw their attention to Jesus as the one whom they should follow from then on. John's work was done as he pointed all men to the Savior.

1:37. When John's two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

These two disciples heard John and so followed after Jesus. One of them was certainly Andrew, the other is likely to be John.