(1) Jesus Baptized (Matt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-23; Jn. 1:29-34)
(Truths About John the Baptist: Matt. 3:1-12; Mk. 1:1-8; Lk. 3:1-20; Jn. 1:19-28)

1. John the Baptist undertook a wilderness preaching ministry as the Herald of the Christ (Matt. 3:1-6).
   a. His proclamation: “repent” (change your thinking) “for the Kingdom of Heaven has drawn near” (Matt. 3:2).
   b. John’s clothing and diet were reminiscent of Elijah (Matt. 3:4; 11:8; 2nd Kgs. 1:8).
   c. John enjoyed unparalleled response to his preaching, as great multitudes came out of Jerusalem, Judea and the Jordan region in order to be baptized (Matt. 3:5,6).
      1) Judaism’s baptism ritual of Gentile proselytes likely followed 70AD and bears no influence upon John’s baptism.
      2) The Qumran records of the Essenes do precede John’s activity, but their rites bear little resemblance to John’s mission.

2. When the religious/political leaders came to participate in the baptism ritual, John confronted them like Elijah before the prophets of Baal (Matt. 3:7-10).

3. John the Baptist understood that his ministry was temporary, and the One Who was Coming would perform a greater baptism (Matt. 3:11,12; Mal. 3:2,3; Joel 2:28,29).

4. The Herald fulfilled his purpose when the Christ appeared (Matt. 3:13-17).
   a. Jesus Christ was sinless and perfect. He had no need to be baptized as a visible sign of His repentance. He did so anyway, in order to identify with His brethren (Isa. 53:12).
   b. The Holy Spirit and God the Father testified to His Sonship (Matt. 3:16,17; Isa. 42:1).
   c. John the Baptist continually exalted the Coming One, and denied any greatness for himself (Jn. 1:19-34; 3:22-36).

5. This unique baptism event was the public anointing of the Christ and marked the beginning of His earthly ministry (Isa. 61:1). In the Old Testament, the following offices were anointed:
   b. Priests (Ex. 28:41).
   c. Kings (1st Sam. 9:16; 16:3,12-13; 2nd Sam. 2:4; 5:3).