

1. John 1:29-34 – Baptism of Jesus

- **Lamb of God** – See our lesson on the phrase Lamb of God as it relates to the name of Jesus.
 - <https://youtu.be/3Mc01kc5i58>
- “baptizing with water” – John’s baptism is a baptism of repentance (see Acts 19:4)¹
- “revealed to Israel” – John’s baptism was to “reveal” the Messiah to Israel.
- There is an emphasis on the Spirit and the Spirit remaining or coming down on Jesus.
- “Like a dove” See our lesson on Genesis and the Renewal of Time, which explains the Hebrew word used for “hovering” in Genesis 1:2
 - <https://youtu.be/ANWXquFzNiQ>
- God’s Chosen One – Isaiah 42:1²

2. Topics:

Baptism of Water
Baptism of Repentance (see Luke 3:3)
Reveal Messiah to Israel
Baptism with the Holy Spirit
Spirit Descending “like a dove.”
Spirit on Him
God’s Chosen One (Isaiah 42:1)

3. Midrash:

- *Drash* (דרש) – means to “seek” or “inquire.”

“A midrash is a rabbinic explanation or elaboration of biblical verses that reveal layers of meaning that are theologically sound but are nowhere stated explicitly in scripture.”

The Jewish Roots of the Transfiguration, Herbert Basser
 Bible Review, June 1998 (Vol. 14. Issue 3)

¹ Baptism of repentance – Acts 19:4 <https://biblehub.com/acts/19-4.htm>

² Isaiah 42:1 - <https://biblehub.com/isaiah/42-1.htm>

4. Structure of Midrash –

- **Torah verse or command** – Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy) was a direct revelation from God to Moses.
- **Supporting Verse** – Psalms or Prophets supporting an interpretation of the Torah verse.

5. Genesis 1:2 –

- No explicit mention in Genesis 1:2 of King Messiah

6. Isaiah 11:1-2, 42:1, & 61:1:

- All three of these chapters are considered “Messianic,” meaning they point to a future King who will bring justice and peace to Israel.

7. Genesis Rabbah 2:4 - ³

“And the spirit of God was hovering” (Gen. 1:2) – this is the spirit of the messianic king, as it says: “The spirit of the Lord will rest upon him” (Isaiah 11:2).

By what merit will it [the Messianic kingdom] come? “Hovering over the surface of the water” – by the merit of repentance, that is likened to water, as it is stated: “Pour out your heart like water [before the face of the Lord]” (Lamentations 2:19).

Genesis Rabbah 2:4

8. Spirit & Water –

- John connects Spirit and Water in John 7:37-39
- John 7 occurs during the Festival of Tabernacles – see our lesson on the Festival of Tabernacles and Water - <https://youtu.be/Pa7zhvt-DS4>

³ Genesis Rabbah 2:4 - https://www.sefaria.org/Bereshit_Rabbah.2.4?lang=bi