

The Pre-Existence of the Messiah is a prominent theme. This also existed within first-century Rabbinic Judaism.

See our lesson on the significance of the "spirit descending like a dove" and how this relates to Genesis 1:  
<https://youtu.be/ANWXquFzNiQ>

Water and Spirit are linked throughout John.

See [Isaiah 42:1](#) - Isa. 42 is a Messianic chapter. This verse is spoken at both Jesus' baptism and the Transfiguration (see [Luke 9:35](#))

**29** The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

**30** This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.'

**31** I did not know him, but for this reason I came baptizing in water: that he would be revealed to Israel."

**32** And John testified, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and it remained on him.

**33** And I did not recognize him, but he who sent me to baptize in water, he said to me, 'On whomever you will see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, this is he who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

**34** And I have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One of God."

"And the spirit of God was hovering" – 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

The phrase "Lamb of God" has the same numerical value as the name Jesus in its original Hebrew form.

See our lesson on [Gematria and the Lamb of God](#)

A motif of creation and re-creation runs throughout the Bible and includes the Spirit (or wind) above the Water. Jesus' baptism represents the dawning of a new age - a new creation.

The Rabbis interpret the "spirit" of [Genesis 1:2](#) as the Spirit of the Messiah (see [Genesis Rabbah 2:4](#) below).

The Rabbis read Genesis 1:2 through the lens of [Isaiah 11:2](#), [42:1](#), and [61:1](#), all of which are considered Messianic and reference the "spirit" "resting."