

seeth Jesus coming unto him and saith, Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." Of this John the Baptist it is said, Luke 1:15, "He shall be filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb." How that unprecedented inspiration came to pass may be learned by the reading of the paragraph that begins with verse 39. The herald and forerunner of the King Messiah must needs be filled with the Holy Ghost, that he like Simeon may be secured against making any mistake among the crowds that came to his baptism. From the first beginnings of this glorious dispensation in which we live, the Spirit is present that man may not lose the Christ, and the Second and the Third of the Divine Three are never separated in their manifestations for human salvation.

This opens the way to look at the baptism of Jesus, which took place at the time of John's bearing witness as noticed above. Why was it that Jesus, although conceived of the Holy Ghost, and having lived a spotless life, and now being thirty years old, was not fully qualified to take His place before men as the Messiah? The men of former ages that were anointed for special work, had that work outlined before their minds previous to their anointing. Christ's work was outlined for Him by the angel that spoke to His reputed father, by Simeon and by John the Baptist. But the work of the men alluded to above was not by them attempted until