

The Forerunner of Jesus

- **Foretold by the prophets**
 - **Isiah 40:3-5 (Mt. 3:3 & Lk. 3:4-6)**
 - **Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6 (Mk 1:3 7 Lk 1:17)**

Compare John with Jesus

- **Supernatural Birth**
 - **Annunciation by an angel**
 - **Miracle of the particular birth (barren and virgin)**
 - **Named Prophet of Most High**
- **Jesus "one-up" each stage**
 - **Virgin conception more miraculous**
 - **Jesus named "Son of the Most High"**

Unconventional John or New Elighah

- **No formal religious training a "nobody", named as a "voice in wilderness"**
- **Wore camel hair, ate wild honey and locust, drank no "strong drink (Nu 6:1-12 & Lev. 11"22-23)" = Did not dress to impress**
- **Lived with Essenes – shaped belief in purity and baptism by water**

Dirty John with Admirable Character

- **Clothed in humility (Mk. 1:7, Lk. 3:15-16, Jn. 1:27)**
- **He claimed "NOT to be the Messiah" instead he was unworthy**
- **Competing Ministry with Jesus = Sent his own disciples to follow Jesus**
- **Gave up his life for God's Message**

John's Ministry

- **Confrontational**
 - **Repentance for dead works (Mt. 3:2-10)**
 - **Confession**
 - **Restitution**
 - **Bearing Fruit from repentance**
 - **Forgiveness (Mk. 1:4)**
 - **Jesus as The Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29, 35-36), Son of God (Jn. 1:34), Bridegroom (Jn: 29),**
 - **Water Baptism (Mt. 3:6, Jn. 1:3)**
 - **Future baptism by H.S. (Mt. 3:11)**
 - **Warned the Jewish nation (Mt. 3:10-12)**

Nazarite Vow

- **Greatest of the all prophets**
- **The last prophet**
- **Transition from Old to New Covenant**
- **Nazarite Vow – a life of self-denial, holiness (Jd. 16:17)**