

Synchronizing the Nativity Accounts of Matthew and Luke

Addendum: “My Father’s Business”



After the death of Herod, God directed the family to leave Egypt and return to Israel.

Matthew 2:19-21

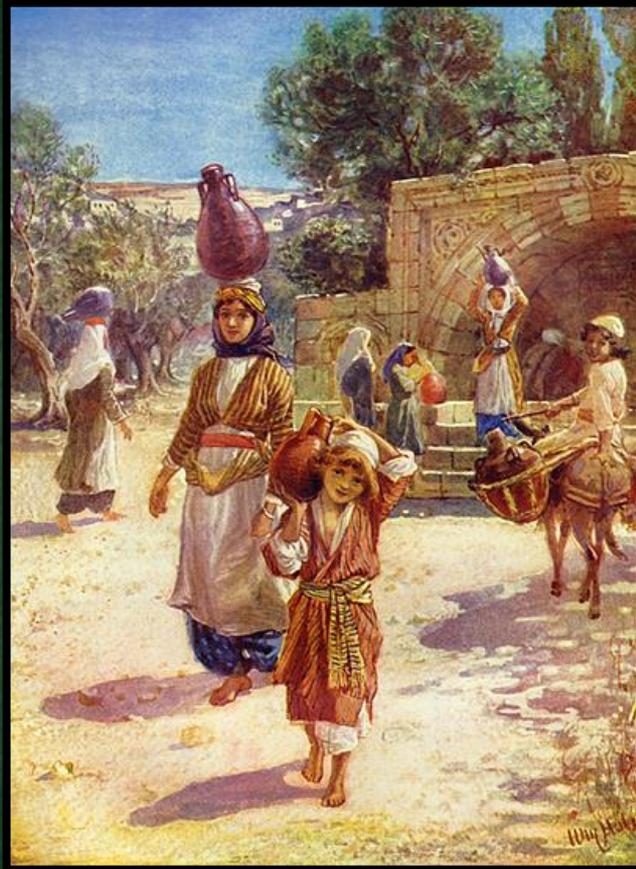
- ¹⁹ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
- ²⁰ Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.
- ²¹ And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.



The family settled in Nazareth of Galilee.

Matthew 2:22-23

- ²² But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:
- ²³ And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.



Other than his place of residence, the Bible has very little to say about the childhood of Jesus.

Luke 2:39-40

- ³⁹ And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.
- ⁴⁰ And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

The next record of Jesus occurs when he is 12 years old:



Christ in the Temple, by Heinrich Hofmann, courtesy C. Harrison Conroy Co., Inc.



Luke 2:41-45

- ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.
- ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.
- ⁴³ And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.
- ⁴⁴ But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among *their* kinsfolk and acquaintance.
- ⁴⁵ And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.



Luke 2:46-47

- ⁴⁶ And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.
- ⁴⁷ And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.



Luke 2:48

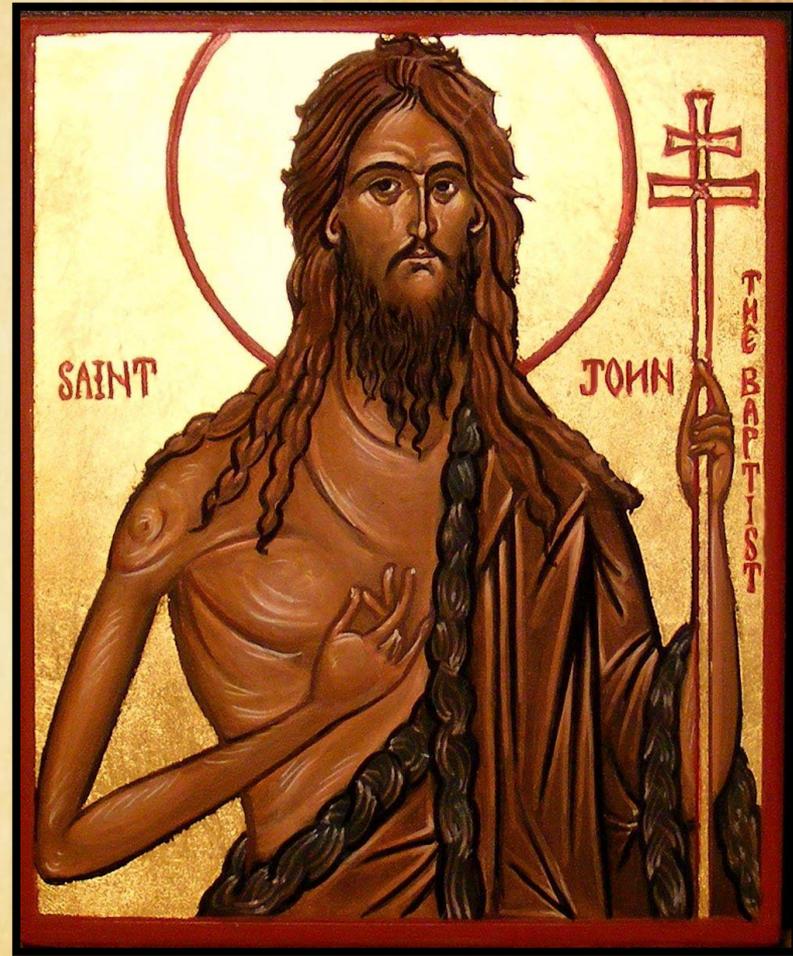
⁴⁸ And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.



Luke 2:49-52

- 49 And he said unto them,
How is it that ye sought me?
wist ye not that I must be about my Father's
business?
- 50 And they understood not the saying which he
spake unto them.
- 51 And he went down with them, and came to
Nazareth, and was subject unto them:
but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.
- 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature,
and in favour with God and man.

The four Gospels converge with their testimony of the ministry of John the Baptist:



Luke includes this short summation of John the Baptist's childhood:

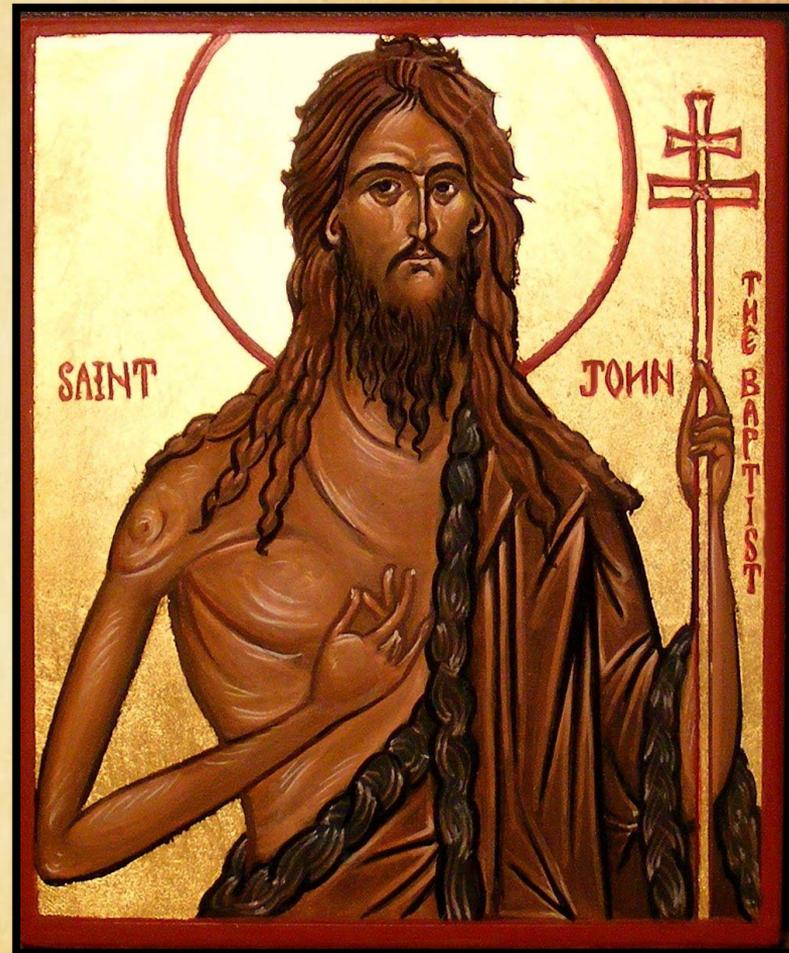
Luke 1:80

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.



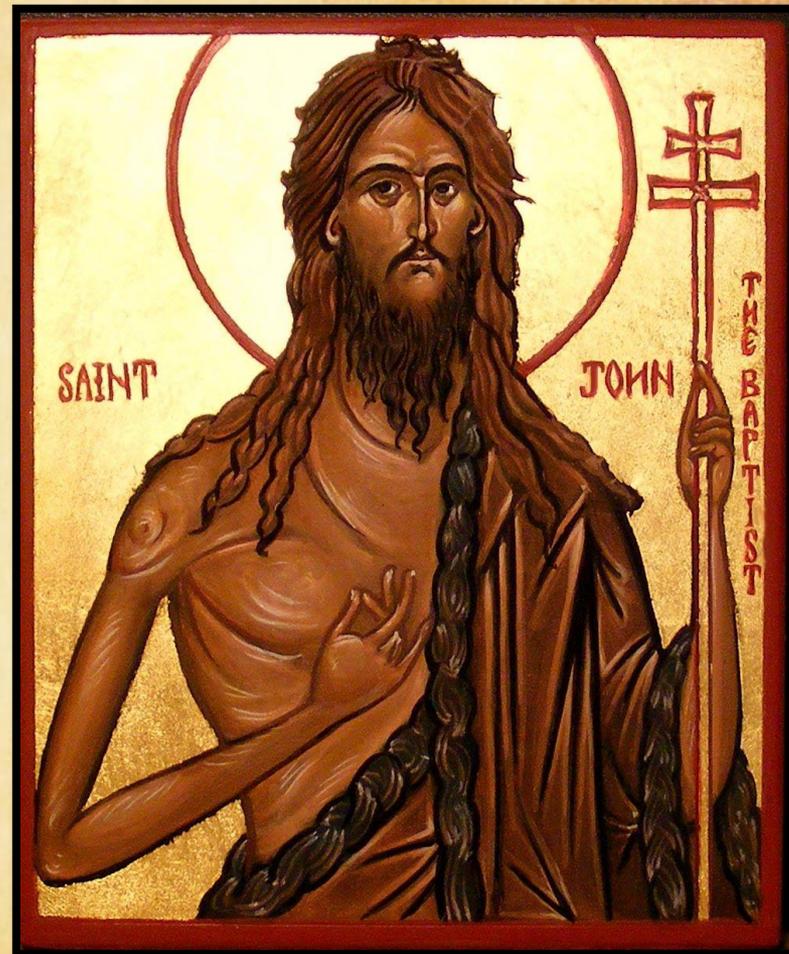
Matthew 3:1-2

- ¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
- ² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.



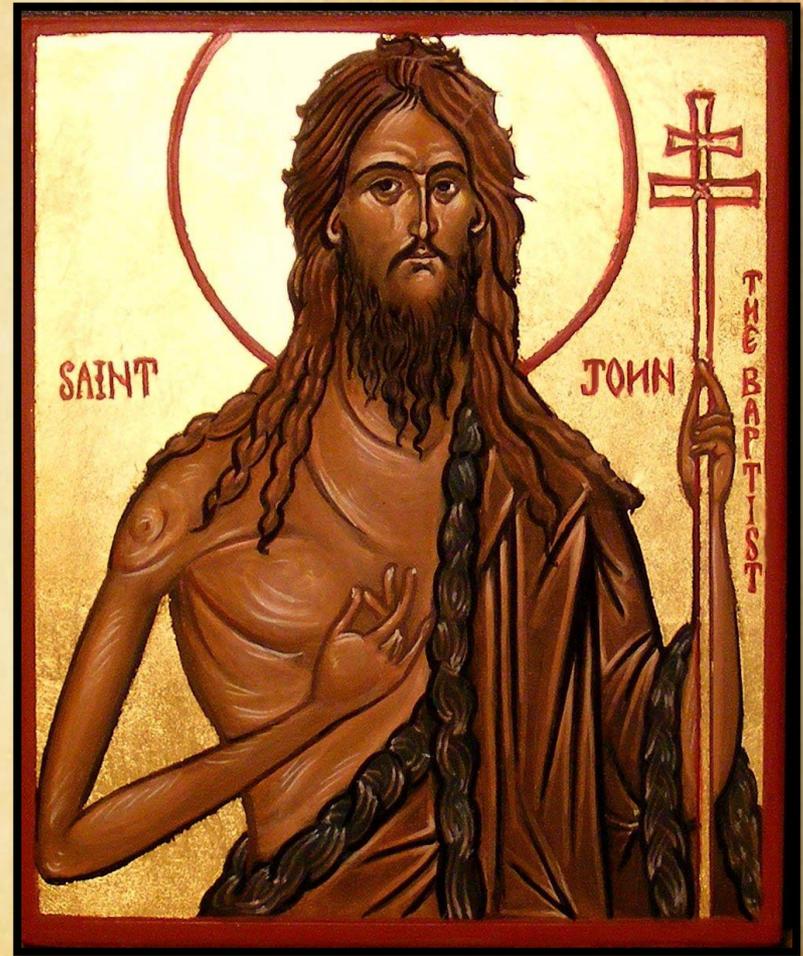
Mark 1:1-4

- 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- 2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
- 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- 4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.



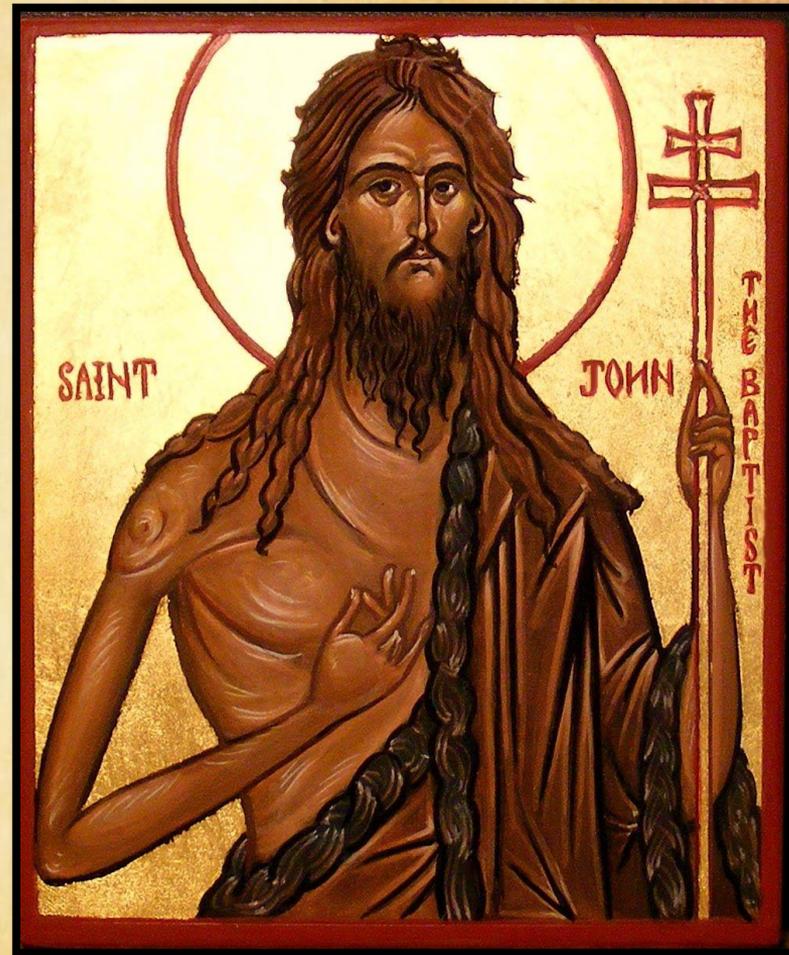
Luke 3:1a, 2b

- ¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...
- ² ... the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.



John 1:6-7

- ⁶ There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.
- ⁷ The same came for a witness,
to bear witness of the Light,
that all men through him might believe.



John 1:6-7

- 6 There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.
- 7 The same came for a witness,
to bear witness of the Light,
that all men through him might believe.

This work continues to this day:





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