

²²After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptising. ²³John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptised ²⁴(for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness - look, he is baptising, and all are going to him." ²⁷John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

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Outrageous claims of Jesus

'The one from above'

John 3:22-36

Is Jesus a threat?

1. The true believer joyfully accepts he's not the main character (22-30)
 - recognise God's unstoppable purposes centre on someone else (27-28, 30)
 - rejoice in the Bridegroom's success (29)
2. ...because someone else is at the centre of God's purposes (31-36)
 - Jesus, the Lord from heaven (31)
 - ...perfectly reveals God (32-34)
 - ...and is at the centre of God's purposes (35)
 - Jesus can save us from God's wrath (36)



After the talk today, there will be a short Q&A session, time permitting