

HANDOUT CHAPTER 1:19-50

Each of the Gospel accounts includes this description of God’s Spirit descending like a dove: (literal Greek translations). John differs with the other Gospels only in that he does not describe the baptism itself, and in describing the descent of the Spirit John has the phrase “from the sky.” CCC#438

Matthew 3:16 “ <i>God’s Spirit</i> ”	“ <i>descending like a dove coming on him</i> ”
Mark 1:10 “ <i>The Spirit</i> ”	“ <i>like a dove descending on him</i> ”
Luke 3:22 “ <i>The Holy Spirit</i> ”	“ <i>descends in bodily form like a dove on him</i> ”
John 1:32 “ <i>The Spirit</i> ”	“ <i>descending like a dove from the sky on him</i> ”

You may also have noticed that John gives us a series of 5 “doublets” between verses 15 and 33:

1. “*They questioned him further*” occurs twice in verses 21 and 25;
2. “*Look, here is the Lamb of God*” occurs in verses 29 and 36;
3. “*I did not know him myself*” in verse 31 is repeated in verse 33;
4. the descent of the Spirit is described twice in verses 32 and 33; and
5. Christ’s pre-existence in verse 30 is repeated verse 15. [There are also 2 sets of emissaries in verses 19 and 24 but they do not count as a “doublet” because there is no repeat of the same words].

John 1:42, “*You are Simon, son of John..*” Here we have an interesting problem. In John’s Gospel Jesus identifies Simon-Peter as the son of John several times (here and in chapter 21 verses 15-17 three times), but in the Gospel of Matthew 16:17 Simon is identified as the “son of Jonah.” Now if Simon is not the son of a man named Jonah why would Jesus ever refer to Simon this way in Matthew chapter 16? The problem is you must never take a passage out of context. Remember “**a text without a context is only a pretext!**” The question is what has preceded this questionable passage? For the 5 previous chapters Jesus has been talking about the Old Testament prophet Jonah. Please read Matthew 12:39-16:4. There are 6 references to Jonah found in 5 verses. The passages that refer to Jonah are found in 12:39, 40, 41 [twice]; 16:4, and 17. The sixth reference is to Simon-Peter.

12:39	“ <i>He replied, ‘It is an evil and unfaithful generation that asks for a sign! The only sign it will be given is the sign of the prophet Jonah.’</i> ”
12:40	“ <i>For as Jonah remained in the belly of the sea-monster for three days and three nights, so will the Son of man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.</i> ”
12:41 (twice)	“ <i>On Judgment Day the men of Nineveh will appear against this generation and they will be its condemnation, because when Jonah preached they repented; and look, there is something greater than Jonah here.</i> ”
16:4	“ <i>It is an evil and unfaithful generation asking for a sign, and the only sign it will be given is the sign of Jonah.</i> ”
16:17	“ <i>Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah, you are a blessed man! Because no it was no human agency that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.’</i> ”

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