

## The Four Gospels of the Bible, Baptized in the Jordan

### John 1:29-39

<sup>29</sup> The next day John (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” (NIV)

*The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I’ve been talking about, ‘the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.’ I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God.”*

*John clinched his witness with this: “I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, ‘The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ That’s exactly what I saw happen, and I’m telling you, there’s no question about it: This is the Son of God.”*

*The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb.” The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, “What are you after?”*

*They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”*

*He replied, “Come along and see for yourself.”*

*They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened. (The Message)*

### He Knew of Him but did not know Him

John may not have ever met Jesus. Remember that John lived out in the desert and basically *lived off the land*. Still, John recognizes (and announces) Jesus as “God’s Passover Lamb” – to acknowledge that Jesus would be the atonement or sacrifice for man’s sins.

### He meets Him and is assured of Him...

John was assured of who Jesus was – the Lamb of God – by the witness of the Spirit that descended on Jesus (at baptism). Obviously, John knew the Spirit – and recognized that the Spirit was present in Jesus.

### His disciples follow Him

John had disciples as well and, before Jesus had formed the 12 disciples, two with John decided to follow Jesus. One of the two, Andrew, would indeed become one of the 12; it is quite possible that the other of the two was “John” – the author of one of the Gospels.

H. Kirk Rainer