

John the Baptist

Though the story of John the Baptist appears in the New Testament,
in many ways he was the last of the Old Testament prophets.

He lived and died before the

death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. (See Matthew 11:11.)

In scripture, his introduction follows the pattern of the Old Testament prophets:

“When _____ were ruling, ‘the word of God came to _____, son of _____”.

(Compare Luke 3:1-2 to Jeremiah 1:1-2; Ezekiel 1:1-3; Hosea 1:1, etc.)

John had the same bold message and manner as the prophets.

And like many of them,

because he courageously spoke God’s truth to powerful leaders,

he met a brutal death. (See Hebrews 11:37-38.)

The Old Testament prophets pointed to Jesus by their

bold obedience and

single-minded devotion to God.

Some also spoke specific prophecies about Him.

But John pointed to Jesus more immediately

than any of the other prophets.

John introduced the world to the living, breathing, present Christ.

He was Jesus’ contemporary and blood-relative.

Jesus and John led-off with the same message:

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2; 4:17)

They both lived a rugged life, and

in the end, both met a painful, humiliating death,

simply for speaking God’s word to those who didn’t want to hear.

But I love what John 10:40-42 says about John:

“(Jesus) went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He stayed there. Many came to Him and were saying, ‘While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.’ And many believed in Him there.” (NASB)

I want my words and my life to point to Jesus the way John’s did,

not by drawing attention to myself, but to Him.

I want my words and my life to say with John:

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30, NASB)

Hymn: [Hear the Prophets Sing of Jesus](#)