THE BOOKFOLIO

When Heaven Speaks, Heaven Agrees

SAGA 2 OF 7 — THE BAPTISM

MATTHEW 3:16-17

All Scripture is from the King James Version. The words of Jesus are printed in red.

This excerpt: the Saga Book (student) pages for Saga 2, followed by the Teacher's Master notes for Saga 2.

The Baptism

MATTHEW 3:16-17 • KING JAMES VERSION

The Scene, Told Plainly

In Saga 1, the Father spoke hundreds of years early. He said His Spirit would be put upon His Servant. Now watch — it happens, right in front of people's eyes.

Jesus came to the river Jordan, to John, to be baptized. John took Him down into the water and baptized Him. Jesus did not stay in the water. He came straight up out of it.

And then Heaven opened.

The heavens were opened unto Him. He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove. Not loud. Not rough. Like a dove — soft and gentle — and the Spirit came and rested upon Him. Lighting upon Him. Staying upon Him. This is the very thing the Father promised in Isaiah 42:1: *I have put my spirit upon him.* Promised long ago. Done now, where people could see it.

And Heaven was not done speaking. A voice came from heaven. It was the Father's voice, and He said who Jesus is, out loud, so there would be no guessing: This is My beloved Son. Mine. Beloved. My Son. And the Father added His own heart to it: in Him, I am well pleased.

Stop and see all three, all in one moment, all in one place. The Son stands in the water. The Spirit comes down and rests on the Son. The Father speaks from heaven about the Son. Three Persons. One moment. One truth. Nobody is arguing. Nobody is telling a different story.

When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees.

The Scripture — Word for Word

> "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:" — MATTHEW 3:16
>
> *"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." — MATTHEW 3:17*

The Father's spoken words in this saga are in that second verse. Read them slowly, out loud if you can. The Father wanted them heard.

Who Is Speaking

The Father — He speaks from heaven in this saga; His voice says who Jesus is: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Son — He is Jesus in the water, just baptized; He does not speak in these two verses — the Father speaks about Him, and the Spirit comes upon Him.

The Holy Spirit — He is seen, not heard, in this saga; He comes down like a dove and rests upon Jesus, just as the Father promised.

One Thing to Think About

> **ONE THING TO THINK ABOUT** — The Father did not whisper. He spoke from heaven, out loud, in front of people: "This is my beloved Son." Why do you think the Father wanted everyone there to hear, plain and

clear, who Jesus is?

Journal

Write it in your own words. If you had been standing at that river that day — the heavens open, the Spirit coming down like a dove, the Father's voice speaking — what would you have thought? What part stays with you most?

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The Baptism — Teacher's Notes

MATTHEW 3:16-17 • KING JAMES VERSION

Church, I want you to notice what happens when a promise gets kept where people can see it. In Saga 1 the Father said it in a prophecy, hundreds of years early: "I have put my spirit upon him." Now we stand at the river Jordan, and I want to show you something — every word of that promise walks right out into the open. The Son is in the water. The Spirit comes down on Him. And the Father speaks. All three, one moment, one truth.

> "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." — MATTHEW 3:16-17

The Answer to the Student Question

The students were asked: the Father spoke from heaven, out loud, in front of people — why did He want everyone there to hear, plain and clear, who Jesus is?

Here is the answer I want you to teach, plain and straight: **because the Father was putting His own name on His Son, in public, before the work even started.** Jesus had not preached yet. He had not healed anybody yet. And before all of that, the Father settled the question of who He is — not by rumor, not by guessing, but by the Father's own voice. Beloved Son. Well pleased. Teach your students this: when God wants a thing known, He says it

plain. Nobody at that river had to wonder whose Son this was, and nobody in your class has to wonder either. The Father has already told us who Jesus is — our part is to believe what Heaven said.

Verse by Verse — Matthew 3:16-17

"**went up straightway out of the water**" — Straightway. Right away. The baptism is done and Jesus comes up out of the water, and watch what God does next. Heaven does not wait for a better moment. The moment the Son comes up, Heaven opens.

"**the heavens were opened unto him**" — I want you to see that word: *opened.* Heaven was not closed to the Son. When Jesus is there, heaven opens. Keep that in your heart — we will see it again in Saga 7, when we learn that through Him, by the Spirit, we have access to the Father. What opens for Him opens the way for us.

"**the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him**" — Here is Isaiah 42:1 happening in front of eyes. The Father said, "I have put my spirit upon him" — and here the Spirit comes down *like a dove* and *lights upon Him*. That word *lighting* means He came to rest on Him and stayed. Not a touch and gone. The Spirit rests on the Son. And notice the manner: like a dove — gentle. The Holy Spirit is power, yes, but He comes here soft, the way a dove lands.

"**And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased**" — This is the Father, speaking out loud, about the Son, while the Spirit rests on the Son. Three Persons in two short verses, and not one of them is working against the others. *Beloved* — the Father loves the Son. *Well pleased* — the Father is pleased with the Son, and He says so before Jesus has done one work in public. The Father's pleasure in His Son

is not payment for a job finished. It is who the Son is to the Father.

A Short Preachable Outline

I. **The promise comes out into the open** — what the Father said in Isaiah 42:1 happens at the Jordan (Matthew 3:16).
II. **Heaven opens for the Son** — the heavens were opened unto Him.
III. **The Spirit rests on the Son** — descending like a dove, lighting upon Him, and staying.
IV. **The Father names the Son** — "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" — spoken out loud, so all would know.

Preaching Lines

> "When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees — at one river, in one moment: the Son in the water, the Spirit on the Son, and the Father's voice over them both."

> "The Father did not wait for Jesus to earn it. Before one sermon, before one miracle, Heaven already said it: This is My beloved Son."