

DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

QUESTION: How is the least in the kingdom greater than John?

John the Baptizer is truly one of the most remarkable and memorable characters to be found in all of Scripture. His coming was a matter of prophecy (Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 11:14). His preaching was in the manner of the great prophets of the Old Testament (Matthew 11:9-10). His message was a clarion call to repentance (Matthew 3:2, 8). He was full of courage, conviction, and faith in God, to the point that it cost him his life (Mark 6:17-29). He was truly a hero of faith.

How then could Jesus say, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist; notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11)? In what sense is one in the kingdom greater than this great man of God? One who has obeyed the gospel has been added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:47), which is the kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19). A Christian has many advantages even over one as great as John. John longed to see the day when the kingdom would come to fruition (see Matthew 13:17), but that did not happen during his lifetime. He was amenable to the Law of Moses, a law under which sins were forgiven in prospect of the coming of the Messiah. We live under the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2), a law under which we enjoy the forgiveness of sins in actuality, not in prospect. We are a part of the Lord's church, that for which John and all other faithful men and women prior to the cross longed to be a part of.

We wish to extend a special invitation to all to be a part of the "Truth Be Told" seminar on Saturday, July 26th at the CHS building in downtown Jasper from 9 AM-1 PM. Come explore the creation/evolution controversy in light of reason and revelation!

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please email us at sixthavenue@bellsouth.net, or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.