

Choice Children, Part 2

Choice or Chaff – The Daniel 12/Matthew 3/Isaiah 40 Connection

August 15, 2019

From the Hebrew word study of Daniel 12:3 from [Choice Children, Part 1](#):

“Those who abide in God consider their steps deeply. They receive discernment, direction and wisdom that causes them to shine so brightly that their lives enlighten, warn, admonish, and teach those around them without speaking a word. Their lives gleam with God’s purifying message, and many are drawn to Him through their brightness.”

In about AD 26-30, John, son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, emerged in the wilderness of Judea immersing Jewish people in the Jordan River. They would have seen this act as *bathing for cleansing*. John said he came to immerse for repentance. **Repentance** means **to turn**. John cried out in the wilderness for the people to turn from sin to God – to be cleansed from their own ways to walk in God’s ways.

John said, “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Matthew 3:11-12)

The original Greek word for **baptize** means **immerse** or **make fully wet**. John said Jesus would immerse them in the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit. He would immerse, saturate and cleanse them!



Jesus came with His winnowing fork in hand to thoroughly purge His threshing floor with the immersing fire of the Holy Spirit. This Saturating Fire would separate the grain from the useless chaff (husk), the **choice** from the **chaff**, the excellent from the meaningless, the precious from the wood, hay and stubble. (See also 1 Corinthians 3:11-13) When we receive Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins, He immerses us in the Holy Spirit, **purging** us so that His purifying message will shine brightly through us.

Following is a prayer that includes passages from Isaiah’s prophecy of John the Immerser (Isaiah 40:3-11):

Father, I am completely undeserving of your *hesed* love, and yet You desire to lavish it upon me and make me your **choice child**. In You I am brand new, beloved, entirely blessed, forgiven, hidden, strengthened, sealed, chosen, holy, beautiful and redeemed!

O Lord God, Adonai, I pray:

*Clear out the path in the wilderness of my heart!
Clear out the path in my mind!
Clear out negative, false narratives and lies in my mind.
Make the highway smooth for You to be revealed!
Make the mountains low and lift up the valleys.
Make ready the path in my mind and heart, so I can
receive and respond to Your Word!*

*Reveal Your glory!
Your Word stands forever!
Come with might! Tend Your flock!
Gather us to your tender heart.
Lead us gently as we nurse on Your truth.
We love you, Lord!
We praise You for Your lavish love!*