

# Mark and John the Baptist

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Q: “In Mark 1:2-3, Mark cites OT passages that he says prophesy about John the Baptist. Would someone at the time be able to know this?”

Answer:

- It seems that Jesus expected that they would recognize John the Baptist as the Elijah to come (Mal. 3:1; 4:5). It seems that John himself connected some of these dots (see Jn. 1:27; 3:22-36).
- Moreover, the connection of John the Baptist to these prophecies seems to have been most “useful” after disciples had started following Jesus and he explained it. I.e., we don’t see people believing in Jesus strictly because of John – they believed Jesus during his ministry and he explained John.
- Mark’s theological perspective almost certainly comes from Peter, and Peter’s theology comes from his 40 day seminar with Jesus. It is clear from Acts that Jesus showed in great detail how the OT prophecies were fulfilled in his life.