

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Mark 1: 4-11

4. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins amongst other things.
5. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea (well, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration but there were several special day trips laid on and a couple of swimming excursions of which quite a lot of residents of Jerusalem took advantage), and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. Which was highly irregular, but nobody really cared, and it did take a bit of time. Honestly, those city people! Now stop that! But I digress. Ah yes.
6. And John was a bit weird for he was clothed with camel's hair (unwashed), and with a girdle of a skin about his loins that did not clasp properly and did frighten the maidens and quite a few others; and he did eat locusts and wild honey even though there were numerous stalls and booths that did sell lamb kebabs and fresh pitta breads;
7. And he preached – well, I say preached. It was more of a dramatic speech really. Standing on the Jordan's bank crying and announcing, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose, nor whose cloak I am worthy to fasten, nor whose breeches I am worthy to press with an hot iron. Well, he was like that, you see.
8. I indeed have baptized you with water - yes, madam, and you - in the river when I pushed your head and shoulders under the stream and did apply soap and moisturiser: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost whose influence shall last longer than a brief immersion. Ooh look – here comes the Master now! Greetings!
9. And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, which was a bit of a trek, and he was hot thirsty from travelling and in need of a wash, and therefore made he his way to the river and was baptized of John in Jordan.
10. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him, but neither John nor the crowds saw anything untoward, though there was a sound like a rushing wind, and John did say, Excuse me. It's my diet.
11. And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. But the crowds thought that it thundered and did look to the sky expecting rain, and many did hurry homeward in fear and trembling.