Three Introductory Statements:

- 1) Floodgates are opened at Jesus' baptism seen in Is. 42:1-13 and Ps. 2:7.
- 2) The Matthew account does something for the Jew and early church concerning the doctrine of the Trinity, V16-17. The Son is declared God in 1:23, 2:15, the Holy Spirit is present in 1:18 & 20, and the Father in 1:20 (angel sent by the Lord), 1:22 & 2:6. V17, the voice of the Father is heard. V16, the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus like a dove, and Jesus has been baptized. All three persons at work as seen with the commission of Matt. 28:19.
- 3) The purpose of baptism is defined in V15, to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus submits to the Father's will, although He wouldn't have to confess sins. Matthew uses examples of Scripture being "fulfilled" throughout Matthew to demonstrate Christ as the Son of God and Messiah of Israel.

Jesus fulfills the Biblical prediction about His coming fulfilling the Father's plan. Examining this statement: Jesus identifies with the remnant of Israel, empowered by the Holy Spirit, authenticated by the Father, and giving certainty of His coming Kingdom.

- 1) <u>Jesus identifies with the remnant of Israel</u>: V13, Jesus comes south to the river where John is. V14, there is a minor protest from John as to why he is baptizing Jesus (Jn. 3:30-31). V15, Jesus says to permit it because Jesus is meeting the people at the point of the need of the lowly and humble of Israel, Matt. 15:24, 21:5. Matt. 11:19, a friend of sinners. Matt. 12:20, a tender, gentle shepherd whom Gentiles will trust. Jesus on the cross identifies with sinners, 2 Cor. 5:21.
- **2)** Empowered by the Holy Spirit: V16, Jesus burst up from the water and the heavens were opened to God's throne (Other examples: Ez. 1:1, Gen. 28:12, Acts 7:55-56, Rev. 4:1, Is. 64:1). V16, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus like a dove, or a dove like descent, appointed Him for ministry. Jesus is dependent on the Holy Spirit to fulfill His ministry, Luke 4:1. Jesus preached by the Spirit, Luke 4:18. Acts 10:38, anointed by the Holy Spirit for healing. The Holy Spirit seals and dwells in us, Eph. 1:13. The Holy Spirit belongs in Heaven, He is in us, we will be in heaven with Him.
- 3) <u>Authenticated by the Holy Spirit</u>: V17, "This is my beloved Son," this declaring the deity of Jesus as Jesus declared about Himself, John 5:18. The Father's disposition towards Jesus is the same towards those clothed in the righteousness of Christ and bound to Christ.
- **And giving certainty of Jesus' coming earthly kingdom**: John the Baptist provided no other information than that the kingdom of heaven is at hand in his time, Matt. 3:2, 4:17. Jesus has come to restore a rebellious Israel. Is. 49:1, He will come from a woman. 49:3, Jesus would be represent the nation of Israel and glorify the Father.
 - <u>The floodgates revisited.</u> Jesus' baptism proclaims the coming of the kingdom and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that guarantees that an earthly kingdom is coming.
 - **a.** The history of Israel resembles Jesus' life: Abraham offering Isaac, Gen. 22:1-2. Israel and Jesus sojourned in Egypt, Matt. 2:13-15. Israel needed atonement during Passover, Jesus was the Lamb of God to make atonement for Israel and Gentiles, John 1:29, 1 Cor. 5:7. Israel passed through the Red Sea into the wilderness for 40 years, Jesus was baptized and lead into the wilderness for 40 days, Matt.4:2.
 - **b.** The Spirit is seen empowering creation at its inception: Gen. 1:1-2, and at Jesus' baptism, Matt. 3:16. The Spirit opens the kingdom to all who were unable to enter.
 - gesus as the Servant representing Israel, then becomes a global King ruling over all. Is. 42:1-9 is about His ministry at His first coming. In Is. 42:10-13, all the world sings His praises and sees His might over the whole earth. Ps.2:7, the nations belong to the Son of God.

d. The Coronation of the King. Satan tries to undo the power of the Holy Spirit, Matt. 4:1. The temptation of Jesus to elevate Himself and not restore Israel, Matt. 4:3& 6. Satan tempting Jesus to leave a world in darkness instead of directing all worship to God, Matt. 4:10.

>>>Jesus as fully God would not ever submit to Satan and Jesus as a man empowered by the Holy Spirit wouldn't sin.

Further Discussion and Application

The first coming of Christ leads us to wonder about His second coming. Is. 42 and Ps. 2 give us a glimpse of the coming Lord. As you think about His return what emotions and thoughts come to mind when you think that Jesus will reign from Jerusalem and that you will reign with Him?

We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance of eternal life, Eph. 1:13-14. What does it mean that we are the purchased possession of God? Reflect on how and with what we were purchased? What is our response to that? What should we use our life for?

What is our duty to God while on earth? How do we give and bring God glory? What should our lives represent and reflect as we realize more and more that this world is not our home?

How should we treat others who are called saints? Read Romans 12:1-21, how should our lives be seen by others who examine how we treat the body of Christ and how we honor the Lord with our lives?

What are 5 ways that you can better align your life in obedience to the Lord? How can you demonstrate a life that is lived for Jesus and how that will impact the lives of other believers and unsaved ones in your sphere of influence?

What sin needs to be put away (put to death) so that we might live more goldy and righteously in the present world?