



## SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY STUDY BIBLE

The goal of the *ESV Systematic Theology Study Bible* is to demonstrate how all Christian doctrines arise from the pages of the Bible.

Durable, Smyth-sewn binding

References to related doctrinal summaries

Double-column, paragraph format

300+ doctrinal summaries explaining core beliefs and connecting them to specific Bible passages

"Theology for Life" sections connect each doctrine to the Christian's heart

### MATTHEW 3:7

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of 'the Pharisees and 'Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "'You brood of 'vipers! Who warned you to flee from 'the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit 'in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, <sup>10</sup>'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from 'these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>11</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. 'Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>12</sup>'I 'baptize you with water 'for repentance, but 'he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not

<sup>1</sup>The Greek word *anthropoi* refers here to both men and women. <sup>2</sup>Greek *huloi*; see Preface. <sup>3</sup>The Greek word *anthropoi* refers here to both men and women. <sup>4</sup>Greek *huloi*; see Preface.

### Trinity Distinguishable Persons Matthew 3:13-17

God has always existed as the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While God is one, and the three persons are therefore inseparable, we must distinguish among them. Matthew's report of Jesus' baptism illustrates this well. Jesus travels from his home province of Galilee to Judea to be baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. John balks at first, insisting he needs to be baptized by Jesus. John insists because he knows that Jesus is far greater than he. John baptizes with water, but he says that Jesus the Messiah "will baptize . . . with the Holy Spirit and fire," referring to Pentecost (3:11). However, Jesus convinces John to baptize him by declaring, "thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (v. 15). John then baptizes Jesus with water, though Jesus has no sin and does not need to repent as does everyone else whom John baptizes. Jesus submits to baptism to identify with sinners whom he came to rescue through his sinless life and substitutionary death. After Jesus is baptized, he comes out of the water and heaven opens up before him. Then Jesus sees "the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him" (v. 16). The invisible Holy Spirit takes on a visible form so John would see the Father anoint his Son with the Spirit as Israel's king and Messiah. Next the Father announces from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (v. 17). From all eternity the Father and Son have loved each other (John 17:24); now the Father proclaims his love for his Son from heaven to encourage him. The Father's words mark the Son as both messianic king and humble servant who obeys the Father. While both Testaments insist that there is only one living and true God, Jesus' baptism shows that we should distinguish the three divine persons: Jesus is baptized, the Father speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends on Jesus.

**Theology for Life**—We worship the one true God when we come to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Spirit. All three persons are worthy of worship, trust, and obedience, for they constitute the one God.

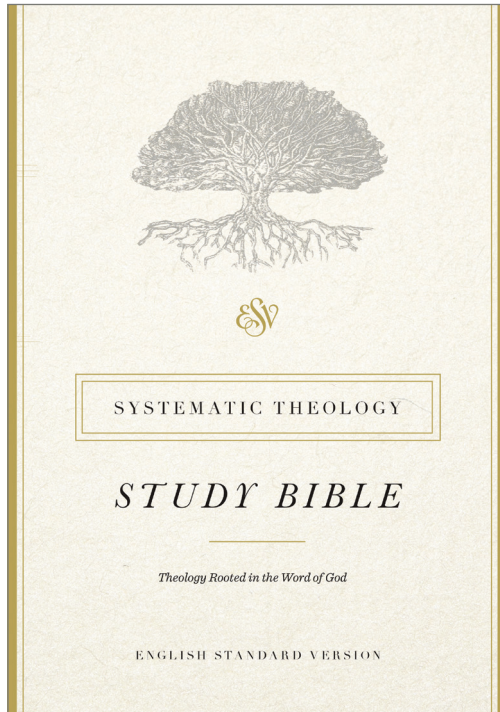
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worthy to carry. He will baptize you 'with the Holy Spirit and 'fire. <sup>13</sup>His 'winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and 'gather his wheat into the barn, 'but the chaff he will burn with 'unquenchable fire."

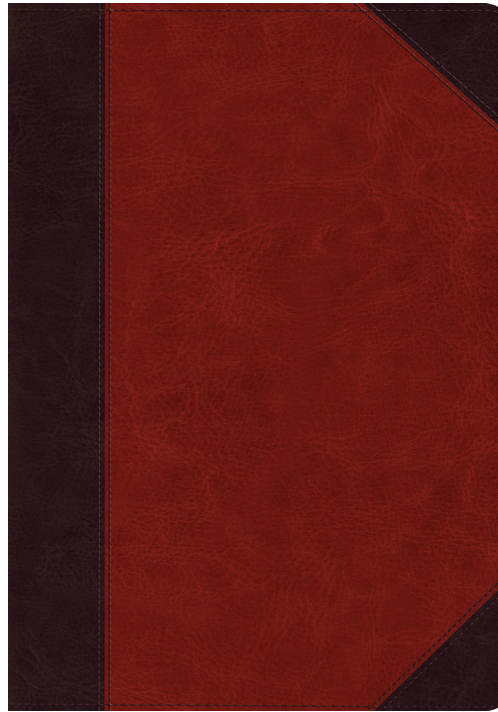
#### The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came 'from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

<sup>12</sup>Mat. 4:1; Mark 9:43, 48; 12:10; Luke 9:17; John 1:32-34; 1:33; 1:35; 1:36; 1:37; 1:38; 1:39; 1:40; 1:41; 1:42; 1:43; 1:44; 1:45; 1:46; 1:47; 1:48; 1:49; 1:50; 1:51; 1:52; 1:53; 1:54; 1:55; 1:56; 1:57; 1:58; 1:59; 1:60; 1:61; 1:62; 1:63; 1:64; 1:65; 1:66; 1:67; 1:68; 1:69; 1:70; 1:71; 1:72; 1:73; 1:74; 1:75; 1:76; 1:77; 1:78; 1:79; 1:80; 1:81; 1:82; 1:83; 1:84; 1:85; 1:86; 1:87; 1:88; 1:89; 1:90; 1:91; 1:92; 1:93; 1:94; 1:95; 1:96; 1:97; 1:98; 1:99; 2:1; 2:2; 2:3; 2:4; 2:5; 2:6; 2:7; 2:8; 2:9; 2:10; 2:11; 2:12; 2:13; 2:14; 2:15; 2:16; 2:17; 2:18; 2:19; 2:20; 2:21; 2:22; 2:23; 2:24; 2:25; 2:26; 2:27; 2:28; 2:29; 2:30; 2:31; 2:32; 2:33; 2:34; 2:35; 2:36; 2:37; 2:38; 2:39; 2:40; 2:41; 2:42; 2:43; 2:44; 2:45; 2:46; 2:47; 2:48; 2:49; 2:50; 2:51; 2:52; 2:53; 2:54; 2:55; 2:56; 2:57; 2:58; 2:59; 2:60; 2:61; 2:62; 2:63; 2:64; 2:65; 2:66; 2:67; 2:68; 2:69; 2:70; 2:71; 2:72; 2:73; 2:74; 2:75; 2:76; 2:77; 2:78; 2:79; 2:80; 2:81; 2:82; 2:83; 2:84; 2:85; 2:86; 2:87; 2:88; 2:89; 2:90; 2:91; 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