

BIBLICAL BAPTISMS

AN OUTLINE BY:

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I once read that *“As soon as the word baptism is heard, as many mind pictures will be formed as there are people within earshot. None of these impressions are wrong.”* While it is undoubtedly true that many different and conflicting “mind pictures” are formed whenever the word “baptism” is spoken, I for one cannot agree that this was God’s intention. Nor can I believe that none of them are wrong. Certainly God is not so confused or capricious as to teach in Scripture that many opposing views of one subject are all true. What kind of God would teach diametrically contrary doctrines (e.g. “baptism saves us” and “baptism does **not** save us”) and then say, “The truth will set us free”? If “baptism saves us” **AND** “baptism does **not** save us” then there is no such thing as truth, and God is either fickle or a liar. He would be untrustworthy at best.

The fact that human beings disagree on any Biblical subject does not make all their contradictory views correct. We disagree because some, most, or all of us are **wrong** and need to spend a good deal more time with the Book of books. When Bible students teach conflicting doctrines it is the fault of the student, not the Master Teacher. Jesus doesn’t contradict Himself. We contradict Him.

All too often though, well-intentioned and big-hearted folks sanctimoniously wave their hand of absolution over numerous false doctrines with the expansive declaration that “Doctrine doesn’t matter.” Well, I could wish that it were so, but the Bible is the Book of **GOD’S** doctrine and He will be better served when we accept what He teaches and reject what He does not. Every time I hear these pleas to embrace any and all “mind pictures” I remember Galatians 1:6-9, *“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel other than that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel other than that which you received, let him be accursed.”*

Rest assured, God thinks a little more highly of the truth for which Jesus and so many others died than to let us all just believe whatever suits us. He said so in 2 John 8f, *“Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.”*

Believing then that truth is both a worthy and attainable goal, I have assembled this outline on the subject of baptism. Please remember that it is only an outline. A great deal more might be said to support each point and it is my sincere desire that any and all who disagree with the conclusions I’ve drawn from the following Scriptures will have both the courage and ability to discuss them.

If I’m right, I want the **world** to know it, but if I’m wrong, I want to know it!

Larry Haverstock

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BAPTISMS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jesus and the apostles used a Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible called the "Septuagint".

The Hebrew word "tabal" is translated "baptizo" (Greek for "baptism") in this version as follows:

1. Genesis 37:31 PATRIARCH'S DECEPTION (*Joseph's Coat Baptized In Blood*)
2. Exodus 12:21,22 THE FIRST PASSOVER (*Hyssop Baptized In Blood*)
3. Leviticus 4:6f INDIVIDUAL'S SIN OF IGNORANCE (*Finger Baptized In Blood*)
They "baptized" a finger, "ranted" (Greek for "sprinkled") blood, and then "ekkadē" (poured).
Three different words, three different meanings. Only immersing is baptizing.
4. Lev. 4:13, 17, 18 CONGREGATION'S SIN OF IGNORANCE (*Finger Baptized In Blood*)
Once again all three words are used.
5. Leviticus 9:8f HIGH PRIEST'S SIN OFFERING (*Priest's Finger Baptized In Blood*)
6. Leviticus 11:32 VESSELS DEFILED BY DEAD ANIMALS (*Vessel Baptized In Water*)
7. Lev. 14:2, 6, 15ff LEPERS
14:2, 6 1st day (*Bird, Cedar, Scarlet, & Hyssop Baptized In Blood*)
14:15-17 8th day (*Priest's Finger Baptized In Oil*)
8. Leviticus 14:48-52 LEPROUS HOUSE (*Bird, Cedar, Scarlet, & Hyssop Baptized In Blood*)
9. Numbers 19:14-18 PEOPLE DEFILED BY THE DEAD (*Hyssop Baptized In Water*)
10. Deut. 33:1,24 ASHER'S BLESSING (*Asher's Foot Figuratively Baptized In Oil*)
11. Joshua 3:14-17 CROSSING THE JORDAN (*Priest's Feet Baptized In Water*)
12. Ruth 2:14 RUTH'S FOOD (*Morsel Baptized In Vinegar*)
13. 1 Samuel 14:27 JONATHAN'S ROD (*Rod Baptized In Honeycomb*)
14. 2 King 5:1, 9-14 NAAMAN (*Naaman Baptized In Water*)
In 5:10, 12, 13 the word is "wash" (louw' not baptivzw). In 5:14 the word is baptivzw (baptize).
This is the first and only time in the Old Testament that a person is baptized.
15. 2 Kings 8:15 HAZAEL KILLS BEN-HADAD (*Cloth Baptized In Water*)
16. Job 9:30,31 JOB'S EXPRESSION OF BEING FILTHY (*Job Baptized In A Pit*)
17. Psalm 68:23 GOD'S PROMISE TO ISRAEL (*Feet Baptized In Enemy's Blood*)
18. Isaiah 21:4 ISAIAH (*Isaiah Baptized In Horror*)
19. Ezekiel 23:15 TURBANS (*Turbans Baptized In Dye*)
20. Daniel 4:30 & 5:21 NEBUCHADNEZZAR (*King Baptized In Dew*)

BAPTISMS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

*The following are actually Old Testament baptisms which are recorded in the New Testament.
They use the Greek word "baptizo" as did those above. I will continue to number consecutively.*

- 21. 1 COR. 10:1-4 THE FATHERS (*Israelites Baptized Into Moses in the Cloud & Sea*)**
EXODUS 13:21, 22 = the cloud. **EXODUS 14:24, 27-29** = the sea.
 (1) **EX. 14:10-12** They distrusted Moses. See also **Ex. 2:11-15, 6:2-12, & Acts 7:39.**
 (2) **EX. 14:31** Now they trust his leadership! In this way they were baptized into Moses.

22. MAT. 3:1-6 & JOHN 4:1-3 JOHN'S BAPTISM (*People Baptized In Water*)

- A. **MALACHI 4:5f** They had waited 400 years. **MAT. 17:10-13** proves John is Elijah!
 B. What is the purpose of John's baptism?
 (1) **MAT. 3:11** Repentance
 (2) **MARK 1:4f** Forgiveness of sins.
 (3) **JN. 1:29-34** Identify and manifest Jesus to Israel
 C. What is the penalty for refusing John's baptism?
 (1) **MAT. 3:11** Unrepentant and therefore unprepared for Christ. See also **MATTHEW 21:25f.**
 (2) **MARK 1:4f** Still in sin (unforgiven).
 (3) **LUKE 7:29** Refusing to acknowledge God's justice.
 (4) **LUKE 7:30** Rejecting God's purpose for yourself.
 D. **HEB. 9:16,17** John died 2 1/2 years before New Covenant inaugurated.

23. MAT. 3:13-17 JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS (*Jesus Baptized In Water*)

- A. Purpose of John's baptism:
 (1) Repentance - everyone needed to change their minds.
 (2) Forgiveness - everyone needed the forgiveness of sins.
 B. Why was Jesus baptized by John since He did not need repentance or forgiveness?
 (1) To Fulfill All Righteousness,
 (a) NOT for repentance or forgiveness like everyone else (**HEBREWS 4:15**).
 (b) He attended feasts, offered sacrifices, & paid taxes for same reason (**MAT. 17:24-27**).
 He fulfilled all righteousness in order to become a perfect sacrifice (**HEBREWS 5:8F**).
 (2) **JOHN 1:31-34** To be identified as the Son of God.
 C. What about people today who claim they should be baptized "because Jesus was"?
 They are totally wrong. Do they cleanse the temple with a whip, work miracles, have 12 apostles, get crucified, or become High Priest because He did? I don't do anything "because Jesus did and is our example". What I do, I do because He commands me to, not because He did it Himself.

24. MARK 7:1-9 PHARISAIC TRADITION (*Cups, Pitchers, Pots Baptized In Water*)

25. MARK 10:37-40 SUFFERING AND/OR DEATH (*People Baptized In Suffering*)

- A. **LUKE 12:47-53** explains that this is a difficult thing and a qualification for Jesus' glorification.
 (1) Judgment scene, Jesus can't cast the unquenchable fire of **Mat. 3:11f** before this baptism.
 (2) Can't be John's baptism since Jesus has already done that.
 (3) Can't be baptism in the Holy Spirit because Jesus has all of the Spirit now.
 (4) Must be the suffering and death that lie ahead for Jesus (and the apostles).

26. JOHN 13:26 JESUS IDENTIFIES BETRAYER (*Morsel Dipped In "Gravy"*)

27. LUKE 16:24 RICH MAN'S CRY FOR MERCY (*Lazarus' Finger Dipped In Water*)

BAPTISMS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The following NEW TESTAMENT baptisms employ the same word ("baptizo") as those above.

28. MAT. 3:7-12 JUDGMENT (*People Baptized In Unquenchable Fire*)

- A. **3:7-10** John is condemning people; the trees are people; the fire is destruction of Jerusalem.

- B. **3:11** Who alone can perform this baptism? Jesus. When was it performed? 70 ad.
 C. **MALACHI 3:1-5** and **4:1-6** abundantly demonstrate the first century time limit on this baptism.

29. REV. 19:13 JESUS PICTURED IN JUDGMENT (*Jesus' Robe Dipped In Blood*)

30. BAPTISM IN HOLY SPIRIT (*Apostles And A Few Certain Gentiles Baptized In Holy Spirit*)

- A. **MAT. 3:11f** Jesus is the only one who can do this.
 B. **ACTS 2:2-4** What is the sign of a true baptism of the Holy Spirit?
 Noise like rushing wind from heaven, fire on head, speak with other languages (**ACTS 2:8-11**).
 Why do you suppose no one claiming Holy Spirit Baptism today has these signs?

No one today has ever seen these signs because no one today has seen a baptism of the Spirit.

Who are the **FIRST** to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? **ONLY THE APOSTLES.**

- (1) **ACTS 1:1-13** Promise made only to the Apostles.
- (2) **ACTS 1:24-2:1** Only the Apostles were present.
- (3) **ACTS 2:4** Every one baptized in the Spirit also spoke in tongues.
- (4) **ACTS 2:7** Everyone baptized also spoke, but all the speakers were Galileans.
- (5) **ACTS 2:14, 37** Everyone baptized also spoke, but only the apostles spoke.

Some argue from **ACTS 2:17-21** that women and others must be included.

Not by baptism of the Spirit. They receive Spirit through "laying on of Apostles hands".

See "laying on of the apostles hands" in **ACTS 2:6-8, 8:14-19, and 2 TIMOTHY 1:6.**

Who are the **ONLY** others to receive Baptism in the Holy Spirit? **CORNELIUS' HOUSEHOLD.**

- (1) **ACTS 10:44-48** They still needed to be baptized in water for forgiveness (**ACTS 2:38**).
- (2) **ACTS 11:14-18** They received Spirit so Apostles would know to baptize them in water.

31. MAT. 28:16-20 BAPTISM IN NAME OF JESUS CHRIST (*Disciples Baptized In Water*)

- A. **ACTS 10:47f** Baptism "in the name of Jesus Christ" is a baptism in water.
 B. **ACTS 2:36-38** Baptism "in the name of Jesus Christ" is for the forgiveness of sins.
 C. **MARK 16:15f** Jesus says Belief + Baptism = Salvation. Shall we argue with Him?
 If you wanted to say Belief + Baptism = Salvation (and this doesn't say it) how could you say it?
 D. When the Apostles and other teachers went forth to obey Jesus' command, what did they do?
 - (1) **ACTS 2:36-41** Baptized 3,000 believing Jews so they could be saved (**ACTS 2:40f**).
 - (2) **ACTS 8:12f** Baptized believing Samaritans so they could be saved (**MARK 16:16**).
 - (3) **ACTS 8:35-38** Baptized the believing Eunuch so he could go on his way rejoicing.
 - (4) **ACTS 16:30-33** Baptized the believing jailer and his household so they could be saved.
 - (5) **ACTS 19:1-7** Re-baptized those who had been incorrectly immersed. **ACTS 18:25F** too.
 - (6) **ACTS 22:16** Baptized Saul (3 days after he believed) so his sins could be washed away.
 - (7) **1 Cor. 12:13** Baptized believers into the body of Christ (**EPHESIANS 1:22F**).

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION

Transliteration = Replace Greek **letters** with equivalent English **letters** thus creating a new word.

Translation = Replace Greek **idea** of the word with equivalent English **idea** of the word.

Greek word = "Baptizw". Transliteration = "Baptism". Translation = "Immerse".

Usually the Greek word is transliterated into "baptism" but "IMMERSION" is the **idea**.

WHICH OF THESE 31 BIBLICAL BAPTISMS IS THE ONE OF EPHESIANS 4:4-6?

Let's just use a simple process of elimination:

- #1 - 21 are either singular events or Old Testament ordinances done away in Christ (**HEB. 9:10**).
- #22 is also an Old Testament baptism done away in Christ's New Covenant (**ACTS 19:1-5**).
- #23 applies only to Jesus.
- #24 was condemned by Jesus as a fabrication of the Pharisees.
- #25 is not required because many of us will die free of persecution or be here when Jesus comes.
- #26 concerns only Jesus and Judas at the last supper.

- #27 concerns only the unnamed rich man and Lazarus in the afterlife.
- #28 could be practiced only by Jesus and was fulfilled in 70 ad.
- #29 is a picture of Jesus at the time of the judgement in 70 ad..
- #30 was limited to the Apostles and the first Gentile converts.
- #31 (Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ) is the only possible baptism required of believers today.

THE TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 6:1-9

- 6:3** Baptism is the transition from being outside Christ to being inside Christ.
- 6:3** Baptism is the transition from being outside Christ's death to being inside Christ's death.
- 6:4** Baptism places us into death and raises us to new life.
- 6:5** Without baptism's union in death there is no resurrection to new life.
- 6:6** The old self is crucified in baptism.
- 6:6** The body of sin is done away in baptism.
- 6:6-8** Baptism frees us from slavery to sin.

GAL. 3:26f Baptism is an act of faith which places me in Christ and makes me God's child.

EPH. 5:25f We are cleansed by a washing of water with the word

TITUS 3:5 We are saved by a washing of regeneration and renewing of the Spirit

COL. 2:9-12 The circumcision of Christ (cutting off the flesh) is acquired in baptism.

I PET. 3:21 Baptism saves us or Peter is a liar. Which do you think most likely?
We can not appeal to God for a good conscience if not PROPERLY baptized.

JOHN 3:3-5 We are born again of water and the Spirit.

JOHN 3:3-5 + EPHESIANS 5:25f + TITUS 3:5

“Washing of water” and “Washing of regeneration and “Born of water” are synonymous terms.
“Cleansed” and “Saved” and “Born Again” are also synonymous terms.

TYPICAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST BAPTISM

1. WHAT ABOUT THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?

- A. Most folks glibly claim “The thief was never baptized.” **MAT. 3:1, 5, 6** might indicate otherwise.
- B. Nevertheless, he was never commanded to be baptized “in the name of Jesus Christ” anyway.
 - (1) Baptism in Jesus' name will not be revealed until 50 days later on Pentecost.
 - (2) **HEBREWS 9:16f** We are under a totally different covenant than the thief was.
 - (3) Jesus could forgive sins, heal afflictions, or do anything else He pleased while on the earth, but He is not on the earth now, so I can't expect this. My responsibility is to obey Christ's Word.
I can't expect salvation the thief's way until I'm face to face with the Lord on a cross too.

TYPICAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST BAPTISM (Continued)

2. CHRIST'S BLOOD FORGIVES, NOT WATER, SO BAPTISM IS UNNECESSARY

I agree that ONLY Christ's blood cleanses sin, but does this mean I don't need faith, repentance, or confession? These things are necessary too, but they don't replace the blood. They are conditions in order to receive the benefit of the blood. None of these things forgive by themselves. If I were to say that we're saved by baptism only, then I'd be just as wrong as one claiming "faith only".

ACTS 2:38 says baptism is for the forgiveness of sins, I didn't. Now, do you believe it or not?

- (1) Some say "for" here means "because of". However, “eis” **never** means that in 1,594 uses in N.T.
- (2) Consider **MATTHEW 26:28** which uses the identical phrase and spelling.

3. EPHESIANS 2:8f BAPTISM IS A WORK, AND THUS CANNOT SAVE

- A. **JOHN 6:28,29** Then we are not saved by faith either. Jesus says faith is also a work we must do.
- B. **JAMES 2:17, 20, 22, 24, 26** Contradiction or harmony? Some works save, and others don't.
 - (1) **GALATIANS 2:16** Is baptism a "work of the Law"?
 - (2) Baptism is a work of faith, an action prompted by and arising from faith. See **Gal. 3:26f**.
 - (3) We are not saved by "works of the Law". We are not saved by "faith only". We are not saved by "works only". We are saved by faith and works of faith. Baptism is a work of faith, not Law.
- C. **HEBREWS 6:1f** Baptism specifically separated from "dead works" mentioned in **HEBREWS 6:1**.

4. I CORINTHIANS 1:17 PAUL SAID HE WAS NOT SENT TO BAPTIZE

- A. Do you accuse Paul of disobeying God by baptizing when he wasn't supposed to? **1 COR. 1:14, 16**
Paul baptized so many people he couldn't even remember them all.
- B. What is Paul trying to teach in the context?
 - (1) Division and wearing men's names are wrong (**1:10-15**).
For one to be called after any man's name, two things are necessary (**1:13**).
 - (a) He must be crucified for you.
 - (b) You must be baptized into his name.
 This passage teaches baptism is so important that Paul didn't want anyone to do so in his name. What this passage teaches is that baptism is too important to be misunderstood. Anyone who believed the gospel Paul preached would be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (**ACTS 2:38**).

MATTHEW 15:7-9 THE PRECEPTS OF MEN

"You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'"

Lest we fall subject to this fearful warning, let us be certain to avoid any and all doctrinal inventions.

Some traditional baptisms and doctrines invented by men but conspicuously absent from Scripture:

- (1) Redefining baptism to include sprinkling or pouring. Baptism requires much water (**JOHN 3:23**).
- (2) Baptizing (or sprinkling) babies or anyone else who can't repent or confess Christ.
- (2) Baptizing someone who thinks they're already saved. No such doctrine in Scripture.
- (3) Baptizing someone to show others that they're saved. No such doctrine in Scripture.
- (4) Baptizing someone to give them membership in a church. No such doctrine in Scripture.
- (5) Baptizing someone for somebody else, either living or dead (**1 COR. 15:29**).
- (6) Baptizing someone in any other way than "in the name of Jesus Christ".
- (7) Praying a "Sinner's Prayer" in order to be saved. No such prayer in Scripture.
- (8) Praying for the Lord "to come into your heart" in order to be saved. No such prayer in Scripture.

NOTE: Every verse in the entire Bible on the subject of baptism is either directly cited in this outline or is covered by a parallel verse which is cited.

PERSONAL NOTES
