

AND NOW WHY ARE
YOU WAITING? ARISE
AND BE BAPTIZED, AND
WASH AWAY YOUR SINS,
CALLING ON THE NAME
OF THE LORD.

—Acts 22:16



WHAT DOES THE
BIBLE SAY ABOUT

WATER BAPTISM





WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT WATER BAPTISM?

Being baptized in water in the name of Jesus is more than religious tradition, more than a door to church membership, and more than a public proclamation. According to the Bible, it's how we identify with the burial of Christ (Romans 6:3-4), it allows the blood of Jesus to cleanse us (1 John 1:7), and ultimately it washes away all our sins.

FOR AS MANY OF YOU
AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO
CHRIST HAVE PUT ON
CHRIST. GALATIANS 3:27

Acts 2:38 reveals the message Peter preached to the crowd on the day of Pentecost. From the upper room, he told the people to, "be baptized *every one of you* in the name of Jesus Christ..." They had asked what to do to be saved. In his response, Peter explained the necessity of baptism for salvation. Similar admonitions are found by other apostles in Romans 6:3-4 and 1 Peter 3:21.

Speaking to Nicodemus in John 3:5-7, Jesus said that to be "born again" and enter the Kingdom of God, he must be *born of water* and of Spirit. Jesus was clear that baptism was essential for salvation. His message to Nicodemus was repeated to the disciples before his ascension when he declared, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16)."



HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

In the original Greek, the word "baptize" is translated *baptizo*, which means to immerse or submerge. As the apostle Paul wrote, we are *buried* with Christ in baptism (Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12). Today, in baptism, we must be **fully covered** by water.

In the New Testament, the God of the Old Testament was "manifested in the flesh" and walked the earth as a man (1 Tim 3:16). His identity was revealed in Jesus. As the angel told Mary, Jesus is Immanuel - *God with us* (Matthew 1:23). The literal meaning of the name of Jesus is *Jehovah has become my salvation*.

Understanding Jesus to be God in flesh, all those who were baptized in the New Testament were baptized **in water** and specifically **in the name of Jesus**.

- In Luke 24:47, Jesus says to preach "the remission of sins" in his name.
- In Acts 2:38, Peter told a crowd of Jews to be baptized in the name of Jesus.
- In Acts 8:16, the Samaritans were baptized in the name of Jesus.
- In Acts 10:48, Peter commanded the Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus.
- In Acts 19:1-6, the Apostle Paul met disciples of John the Baptist and encouraged them to be rebaptized so the name of Jesus was spoken over them.



WHAT DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT SAY ABOUT THE NAME OF JESUS?

The prophet Isaiah looked ahead to the New Testament experience of salvation and prophesied, "You shall be called by a new **name**, which the mouth of the Lord will name (Isaiah 62:1-2)."

- Isaiah 56:5 says that his name is "an *everlasting* name."
- Isaiah 57:15 says that his name is "a *holy* name."
- Jeremiah 10:6 says that his name is "*great* in might."
- Malachi 4:2 says that we should "FEAR his name."
- Psalm 69:36 says that we should "LOVE his name."
- Psalm 138:2 says that we should "PRAISE his name."

OUR HELP IS IN THE
NAME OF THE LORD,
WHO MADE HEAVEN AND
EARTH. PSALM 124:8



WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY ABOUT THE NAME OF JESUS?

- Philippians 2:9 says, "The *name* of Jesus is above every other name."
- Colossians 3:17 says, "Whatsoever ye do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the *name* of Jesus."
- Acts 4:12 / There is no other *name*, but the name of Jesus, that can save us.
- Hebrews 1:4 / The *name* of Jesus is more excellent than the angels.
- John 14:13 / We should ask in his *name*.

The Old Testament book of Exodus tells the story of God's miraculous deliverance of the Israelites. As they fled from Pharaoh and their Egyptian captors, God used a great body of water (the Red Sea) to save them. After the Israelites walked across the Red Sea on dry ground the waters were released, and the Egyptians were washed away.

The book of Exodus also describes the building of the Tabernacle by Moses, which serves as a parallel to our New Testament salvation. In the Tabernacle, there was a laver, or basin, of water where a priest washed the blood of animal sacrifices off of his hands.

In the New Testament, the burden of Egypt is used as a symbol and illustration of the bondage of sin. As Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin (John 8:34)." In baptism, the "work of Egypt" or the bondage of sin is washed away. Baptism also serves as the spiritual laver of water where the blood on our hands (our shame and guilt) is washed away. At baptism, we become a new person in Christ.