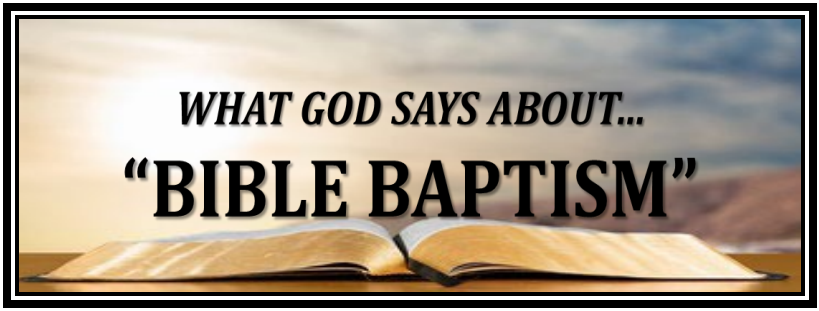


Baptism is a New Testament ordinance that was first introduced by John the Baptist—the forerunner of Christ. This life-changing experience represents a death and burial of the old life of sin and a resurrection of a new life in Jesus Christ. Indeed, it is the outward expression of an inward change. It represents a new beginning. Baptism is necessary for the Christian. Christ, our perfect example in all things, demonstrated the importance of baptism by instructing John the Baptist to baptize Him. Obviously, Jesus had no need of baptism. He is the sinless and spotless Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world. However, He was baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). As we search the Scriptures regarding this subject, we will clearly understand the proper mode of baptism which will expose any other form of baptism that is contrary to the Word. Let's begin our study and learn What God Says About…"Bible Baptism."

A NEW TESTAMENT ORDINANCE

1. **According to Matthew 3:1-3, who preached in the wilderness of Judea? What did he instruct the people to do? Why?**

   [1]"In those days came _____ _____ _____, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, [2]And saying, _____ ye: for _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____. [3]For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." *Matthew 3:1-3*

   Note: *Baptism is a New Testament ordinance. It was first introduced by John the Baptist—the forerunner of Jesus Christ. He was known as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." His fervent calls to repentance and soul-stirring appeals led many to renounce their sins and be baptized in the watery grave. True repentance, which is sorrow for our sins and a turning away from sin, is a prerequisite to baptism.*

2. **What did John the Baptist do in addition to preaching in the wilderness? In addition to repentance, what important thing were the people doing when baptized?**

[4]"John did _____ in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. [5]And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, _____ _____ _____." *Mark 1:4, 5*

Note: *In addition to repentance, another important prerequisite to baptism is confession. Clearly, those who were baptized by John the Baptist confessed their sins to God. Baptismal candidates today are to confess and forsake their sins as well (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13). Indeed, baptism is an outward expression of an inward change.*

3. **According to Luke, who was baptized by John the Baptist? Who else did John have the wonderful privilege of baptizing?**

[21]"Now when _____ _____ _____ were baptized, it came to pass, that _____ also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, [22]And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." *Luke 3:21, 22*

4. **Why did Jesus, our sinless Savior, insist on being baptized by John the Baptist?**

[13]"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. [14]But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? [15]And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us _____ _____ _____ _____. Then he suffered him." *Matthew 3:13-15*

Note: *Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God, honored the ordinance of baptism and was baptized in behalf of sinners as our perfect example.*

BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

5. **According to the Gospel of Matthew, from where did Jesus rise up when He was baptized by John the Baptist?**

[16]"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway _____ _____ _____ _____: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: [17]And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my

beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." *Matthew 3:16, 17*

6. According to the Gospel of Mark, from where did Jesus come up when He was baptized by John the Baptist?

[9]"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. [10]And straightway coming up _____ _____ _____ _____, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him." *Mark 1:9, 10*

Note: *The word baptism or baptize comes from the Greek word baptizo which means to immerse—to dip under. Undoubtedly, Christ was fully immersed under water and came up out of the water when He was baptized by John the Baptist. Christians are to follow Christ's example in baptism.*

WATER IS ESSENTIAL

7. In order to enter God's kingdom, in what two ways must we be born?

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of _____ and of the _____, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." *John 3:5*

Note: *Christ revealed to Nicodemus that the purity of God's kingdom required him to be born again. In order for him to find entrance therein, he must be born of the water and of the Spirit. A radical change must take place in his heart, his sins must be washed away, and He must daily receive the life of Christ imparted by the Holy Spirit. Christ's words to Nicodemus applies to all who would find entrance into God's kingdom. Indeed, the new birth is a prerequisite to baptism.*

8. According to the Scriptures, with what substance did John the Baptist baptize?

[26]"John answered them, saying, I baptize with _____: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; [27]He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. [28]These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing." *John 1:26-28*

9. Why was John baptizing in Aenon near Salim?

"And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____: and they came, and were baptized." *John 3:23*

Note: *John 3:23 makes plain the reason why John the Baptist was baptizing in Aenon near Salim. It was because there was "much water there." The water was deep enough for him to baptize by immersion.*

10. What did Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch come upon while traveling? What did the Eunuch see that led him to request baptism?

35"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36And as they went on their way, they came unto _____ _____ _____: and the eunuch said, See, here is _____; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" *Acts 8:35, 36*

Note: *The Bible indicates that the Ethiopian eunuch understood that water was essential for baptism. Hence, after teaching him about Jesus, Philip would proceed to baptize him by immersion according to the Scriptures.*

11. What did both Philip and the Eunuch go down into that perfectly harmonized with the Bible teaching of baptism? What did they both come up out of after the baptism had occurred?

37"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into _____ _____, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39And when they were come up out of _____ _____, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing." *Acts 8:37-39*

12. When the Holy Ghost fell upon the Gentiles, what did Peter say just prior to their baptism?

47"_____ _____ _____ _____ _____, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days." *Acts 10:47, 48*

THE SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM

13. When baptized into Christ, we are symbolically baptized into what? What else occurs symbolically? What does the experience of being raised from the water symbolize?

[3]"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into _____ _____? [4]Therefore _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. [5]For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of _____ _____." *Romans 6:3-5*

Note: *In Romans 6, the apostle Paul explains sanctification by faith—obedience to the Ten Commandments. In verses 3-5, he illustrates the believer's death to sin, burial of the old life of sin, and resurrection to the new life in Christ through the symbolism of baptism.*

14. According to the Scriptures, how many modes, methods or symbols of baptism are acceptable?

"One Lord, one faith, _____ baptism." *Ephesians 4:5*

"Baptism's meaning is intimately related to its mode. Alfred Plummer said, 'It is only when baptism is administered by immersion that its full significance is seen.'" Seventh-day Adventist's Believe: *An Exposition of the fundamentals beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, p. 215.*

15. How does the apostle Paul describe the believers experience with Christ during baptism? What else does he say occurs as a result of our baptism with Christ?

"_____ _____ _____ in baptism, wherein also _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." *Colossians 2:12*

Note: *Just as Christ was raised with resurrection power from the dead, the believer rises from the watery grave of baptism in the power of Christ's resurrection. Hence, that same resurrection power empowers us to live a life of total victory over sin as we daily die to sin and self (Romans 6:8-11).*

16. As a result of being risen with Christ in baptism, where are we admonished to set our affection?

[1]"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. [2]Set your affection _____ _____ _____, not on things on the earth. [3]For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. [4]When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." *Colossians 3:1-4*

Note: *After rising from the baptismal waters to walk in newness of life, we are to set our affection on things above. In other words, we are to be heavenly minded, and Christ should be first and foremost in all things.*

BAPTIZED INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST

17. What is the first of two ways that we get into Christ? What is the second way we get into Christ or join the church?

[26]"For ye are all the children of God _____ _____ in Christ Jesus. [27]For as many of you as have been _____ _____ _____ have put on Christ." *Galatians 3:26, 27*

18. According to 1 Corinthians 12:12 and 13, into how many bodies are Christians baptized?

[12]"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. [13]For by one Spirit are we all baptized into _____ _____, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." *1 Corinthians 12:12, 13*

Note: *The apostle Paul explains that just as many members exist in one human body, in like manner, many members exist within and make up the church—the spiritual body of Christ. He then explains that by one Spirit believers are all baptized into one body, the church.*

19. According to the apostle Paul, what living organism or spiritual entity is Christ the head?

"And he is the head of _____ _____, _____ _____: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." *Colossians 1:18*

20. According to Acts 2:41, about how many souls joined the church when they were baptized on the Day of Pentecost?

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about _____ _____ _____." *Acts 2:41*

Note: *About three thousand souls were baptized into the church on the Day of Pentecost. Similarly, baptismal candidates today are to be properly instructed from the Scriptures and then baptized into the church (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:47). In addition to repentance, confession, and the new birth, thorough Bible instruction is another prerequisite to baptism.*

21. Who did Paul encounter or find when he came to Ephesus?

"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding _____ _____." *Acts 19:1*

22. What special person of the Godhead had not been heard of by these disciples of John the Baptist?

"He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any _____ _____." *Acts 19:2*

23. Whose baptism had these disciples experienced?

"And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto _____ _____." *Acts 19:3*

Note: *It is important to note that these twelve disciples of John the Baptist were converted, and they were living up to all the light that they had. They had already been baptized by immersion, according to the Scriptures. However, like Apollos, they had not heard of or received the Holy Ghost. Obviously, they were not present in Jerusalem when the Holy Ghost was poured out on the Day of Pentecost.*

24. How does Paul describe the baptism that John the Baptist performed?

"Then said Paul, John verily baptized with _____ _____ _____ _____, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." *Acts 19:4*

25. What happened when these twelve disciples of John learned about the Holy Spirit and believed?

[5]"When they heard this, _____ _____ _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6]And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. [7]And all the men were about twelve." *Acts 19:5-7*

Note: *After Paul taught these twelve men the truth of the Holy Ghost, the Lord led them to be rebaptized without delay. Believers, who have previously been baptized by immersion and discover additional truths in God's Word, may also be led to be rebaptized. In doing so, they are not in any way denying their previous commitment to God. They are faithfully following Jesus and advancing in the light of truth shining from God's Word.*

BAPTISM AND SALVATION

26. According to the Gospel of Mark, what two things are necessary for salvation?

[15]"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16]He that _____ and is _____ shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." *Mark 16:15, 16*

Note: *Believing is another prerequisite to baptism.*

27. According to the apostle Peter, believers are saved through what symbolic experience?

[20]"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. [21]The like figure whereunto even _____ doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." *1 Peter 3:20, 21*

Note: *Just as Noah and his family were saved upon the flood waters in the Ark, the salvation experience includes baptism through the watery grave. We are saved by faith alone in Christ's shed blood. However, we are required to be obedient to God's instructions just as Noah and his family were obedient. Indeed, obedience through baptism results in a clear conscience before God.*

28. What important thing does baptism do for the believer?

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and _____ _____ _____ _____, calling on the name of the Lord." *Acts 22:16*

SUMMARY

Baptism is a New Testament ordinance that was introduced by John the Baptist—the forerunner of Jesus Christ. Indeed, baptism is necessary for the Christian. Christ, the spotless Lamb of God, was baptized as our perfect example. According to the Scriptures, immersion is the proper mode of baptism. It symbolizes a death, burial, and resurrection to a new life in Christ. We become Christians through faith in Christ and by baptism into His body—the church. Repentance, confession, the new birth, thorough Bible instruction, and believing are prerequisites to Bible baptism. Rebaptism is fitting when additional truths are discovered in God's Word.

29. Dear friend, have you accepted Christ's blood and allowed Him to wash your sins away in the watery grave of baptism?

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