

Baptism: One Or Many?

2024 Grace School of The Bible Summer Family Conference

July 23, 2024

Outline

- Biblical Word Forms & Meanings
- Types of Baptism
- Biblical History of Water Baptism
- John's Baptism
- The Baptism of Jesus
- Paul's Teaching on Baptism
- Conclusion

Biblical Word Forms & Meanings

- Forms of the word “baptize” occur 115 times in 91 verses in the KJB. The word is not found in the Old Testament.
 - Baptist—10 times in 10 verses. John the Baptist.
 - Baptize—9 times in 7 verses.
 - Baptized—61 times in 51 verses.
 - Baptism—22 times in 22 verses.
 - Baptizing—4 times in 4 verses.
 - Baptizeth—2 times in 2 verses.
- In terms of meaning and usage, there are both literal and figurative meanings for both the Greek and English words associated with the study of this topic.

Biblical Word Forms & Meanings

- Matthew 3—is where we first encounter various forms of the word.
 - Baptist—referring to a person i.e., “John the Baptist” (Matt. 3:1).
 - Baptized—in water in the Jordan river (Matt. 3:6).
 - Baptism—what John was doing in verse 6 (Matt. 3:7).
 - Baptize—John identifies 3 different baptisms in this verse: 1) water, 2) Holy Ghost, & 3) Fire (Matt. 3:11-12)
- The basic meaning of the word baptize is identification. The word can be used in reference to both physical and spiritual identification. The context must determine the intended meaning.

Types of Baptism

- Examples of physical/literal types of baptism mentioned in the Scriptures are:
 - John 1:31, Luke 3:3—John's baptism for entrance into the Little Flock.
 - Acts 2:38, Mark 1—the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
 - Matthew 3:5—the baptism of Christ by John.
 - Hebrews 9:9-10—the divers baptisms required by the Law (Lev. 19).
 - Mark 7:1-9—the traditional baptisms of the Jews that were not required by the Law.

Types of Baptism

- Baptisms that are either spiritual or figurative in nature are:
 - Matthew 3:11—Christ baptizing with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).
 - Luke 3:16—Christ baptizing with fire.
 - Luke 12:50—Christ's baptism into death upon the cross.
 - I Corinthians 10:2—the baptism of the children of Israel unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.
 - I Corinthians 12:13—the Holy Spirit baptizing believers into the Body of Christ.
 - I Corinthians 15:29—the much-debated baptism for the dead.

Biblical History of Water Baptism

- John 1:25—the leaders of Israel do not question John’s practice of water baptism but by what authority he was baptizing.
 - Hebrews 9:10
 - Leviticus 15:1-33, 16:4, 17:14-15
- Mark 7:4—the religious leaders of Israel added a bunch of man-made ordinances and traditions on top of those required by the law.

John's Baptism

- Matthew 3:1-6—Consider the following details of John's message:
 - John is calling Israel to repent because the kingdom of heaven was “at hand” i.e., near.
 - John was the forerunner of the Messiah.
 - John was baptizing people with water in the Jordan River.
- Mark 1:4, 14-15—These verses add the following details to our understanding of John's message:
 - John's Baptism was for the remission of sins.
 - John's message is called the Gospel of the Kingdom.

John's Baptism

- Luke 7:29-30—these verses are not teaching baptism as an outward sign of an inward commitment.
 - Luke 7:31—Jesus tells his hearers that then living generation within Israel has a major problem.
- Matthew 3:7-11—John calls these men a generation of vipers.
- Acts 2:40—Peter warns his hearers at Pentecost that they need to save themselves from this “untoward generation.” How would they do this?
 - Acts 2:38—repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.

The Baptism Of Jesus

- Matthew 3:13-17—Jesus Christ was baptized to “fulfill all righteousness.”
- Exodus 29:1-4—to function in the office of a priest, the law required that the priest be washed with water and anointed with oil.
 - Exodus 19:6—the entire nation of Israel was to be a kingdom of priests and holy nation.
 - Isaiah 61:5-6
 - I Peter 2:9—John, Jesus Christ, and the 12 were forming the believing remnant that will function as the kingdom of priests once the Kingdom of God is established.
 - Luke 12:32—this believing remnant is called the Little Flock.

Paul On Baptism

- I Corinthians 1:17—Paul was functioning under a different commission that did not include water baptism.
 - Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
- I Corinthians 12:12-13—our baptism today is a spiritual baptism into the Church the Body of Christ.
- Colossians 2:11-12
- Galatians 3:27
- Romans 6
- Ephesians 4:4-6

Conclusion

- There are many different baptisms discussed in scripture but only one that matters today during the dispensation of grace.
- The baptism of God the Holy Spirit whereby one is placed into the church the body of Christ and sealed until the day of redemption.
- This baptism is spiritual i.e., not made with hands and has nothing to do with water.