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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

• Is

Baptism

Essential

To Salvation?

The Word of God
has a lot to say
about the topic of
baptism.

There are
seven different
baptisms
mentioned
in the
New Testament.

First Baptism

is the baptism of
the children of Israel

into Moses

which describes how
they were

surrounded by a wall of water
on each side and a cloud.

- When they came out on the other side of the Red Sea, they were saved from the Egyptians,

- And they began a new life with

Moses as their mediator.

(1 Cor. 10:1-2; Exodus 14:19ff)

- Most denominations teach salvation first and then baptism.
- If my analysis of denominational doctrine is correct then the Israelites were saved from the Egyptian army before they crossed the Red Sea.
(Exodus 14)

- **Second Baptism**
is the baptism of suffering
(Mt. 20:22-23; Mk. 10:38-39),
- Which refers to the overwhelming **suffering that Jesus experienced**
 - As He was **scourged** and **crucified**
(**Matthew 27:26;35**)
 - In other words,
He was immersed in pain.

- **Third Baptism**
is the
baptism for the dead
(1 Corinthians 15:29).
- A doctrine taught by the
Mormon Church.
 - Also **refuted** by
numerous scriptures.
(Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 25; etc.)

- Fourth Baptism
is John's baptism,
which came from God
(**Matthew 21:25**)
- Accepting his baptism
justified God
(**Luke 7:29**)
- Refusing it was to
reject the will of God
(**Luke 7:30**).

- John's baptism was **an immersion in water** (John 3:23; Mark 1:5-10)

- John's baptism had a specific

purpose

and

prerequisites.

- **Let's notice four.**

First prerequisite,
people had to
believe
in the Messiah
that would
come after him
(Acts 19:4).

- Second prerequisite,
they had to
confess
their sins
(Mt. 3:6; 19:4).

- Third prerequisite,
it was a
baptism
of repentance
(Acts 13:24; 19:4).

- Fourth prerequisite,
it was a baptism
for
the forgiveness of sin
(Mk. 1:4; Lk. 3:3).

- John's baptism was also carried out by Jesus' disciples (John 3:22;26;4:1-2)
- However, the authority for his baptism ended when The Great Commission was commanded (**Matthew 28:18-19; Acts 19:4-5**)

- **Fifth Baptism**

is the

baptism of fire

(**Mt. 3:11**; **Lk. 3:16**).

- Some think the baptism
of the
Holy Spirit
and
fire
are the same thing,
but they are not.

- John was talking to sincere and insincere people.

- When he said Jesus would baptize them with fire,

he was talking about the eternal punishment

that all the wicked will be immersed in.

- This is the reason John said:
 **“His winnowing fan
 is in His hand,
and He will thoroughly clean out
His threshing floor,
and gather His wheat
into the barn;
but He will burn up the chaff
with unquenchable fire”
 (Matthew 3:12)**

- Note the following analogies in this remarkable metaphor:
 - The fan is the judgment;
 - The wheat refers to the just;
- The chaff stands for the wicked;
 - The fire is the Gehenna in which the wicked shall perish;

- The threshing floor is the world;
- The one with the winnowing fan in his hand is the Lord, Judge of all the earth.

- God classifies people in only **two categories**:
 - **Good and bad,**
 - **Wheat and chaff,**
 - **Sheep and goats.**

- Those who claim the apostles were **baptized with fire** on the day of Pentecost have misunderstood **Acts 2:3**
 - Because it **describes divided tongues that looked like fire** and sat upon each apostle.
 - So, this **does not** describe being baptized by fire at all.

- **Sixth Baptism**
is the
baptism of the Holy Spirit,
which was spoken of
John the Baptist
(**Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16**).
- As we examine more Scriptures,
we will discover that
Holy Spirit baptism
was a promise to the apostles,
- And **Jesus** would administer it
(**Lk. 24:49; Jn. 16:5-15; Acts 1:8**).

- Jesus clarified that John's teaching about the baptism of the Holy Spirit **applied to the apostles**
- When He said to His apostles:
 - **“For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5).**

- This **promise** was fulfilled in **Acts 2:1-4**,
- The only other recorded instance of Holy Spirit baptism happened at **Cornelius's household** (**Acts 11:15**).

- Since Jesus was the only one who could administer this baptism,
- Which was a promise
- And not a command,
- It cannot be the baptism that Jesus commanded in The Great Commission.

- **Seventh Baptism**
is the baptism of
The Great Commission
(**Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16**),
- Which is administered
by humans.
- Paul said there was
one baptism
when he wrote to
the Ephesians
(**Ephesians 4:5**).

- That one baptism is the baptism of **The Great Commission.**
- It was taught at the birth of the church as being for the **forgiveness of sin** (**Acts 2:38**).
- It is an **immersion** in water (**Acts 8:38; 10:47**),
- And it **saves** a person (**1 Peter 3:21**).

- **1 Peter 3:21**

The like figure where unto
even baptism
doth also now save us (KJV)

- **1Peter 3:21**

And baptism, of which
this is an image,
now gives you salvation, (BBE)

•

- **1Peter 3:21**

Baptism, which is symbolized
by that water,
now saves you also, (ISV)

- Before a person is baptized,
They must:
 - **Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God (**John 3:16**),
 - **Repent** (**Luke 13:3**),
 - **Confess** Jesus as Lord (**Romans 10:9-10**).

- Even though this baptism is administered by others, what takes place at a person's baptism is a work of God (Colossians 2:12).

- **Colossians 2:12**

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

- **When** a person is baptized:
- He/she is **buried** with Jesus,
 - **United** with Him,
 - **Raised** alive with Him,
 - And sins are **forgiven**
- **By the blood of Jesus**
(Rom. 6:1-11; Col. 2:12-13; Acts 12:38; 22:16)

- At the point of baptism,
we are added
to the church by God
(**1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47**).

- **Acts 2:47**

**And the Lord added
to the church daily
such as should be saved.**

- Seven different baptisms are mentioned in the New Testament,
- But our main focus will be the baptism of The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Because it is the one that saves.

- Many in the religious world teach that baptism **is not necessary for salvation.**

- Instead, they would say that baptism is something a person does **after one is saved.**

- Is that logic also valid for John's baptism?
 - Matthew 3:11
- Were these believers saved first and then baptized?

- Please understand that baptism **is not more important than** faith, repentance, or confessing Jesus as Lord,
 - But it is **equally** important.
- All these things **work together** to bring about salvation,
 - And one will not work **without the other.**

- My desire is that everyone will be like **the Bereans**
 - **And search the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so (Acts 17:11).**
 - It would also help if everyone will study this **topic with an open mind.**

- Baptism is a serious topic that deserves our attention.
 - If baptism is the point at which a person is saved
 - And if someone is taught that a person is baptized after they are saved.

- Then that individual was never baptized for the remission of sin, which means they are lost.
- God doesn't judge on a Bell Curve!

- I believe this is the **greatest trick the devil has pulled off** because a person can
- **Live** like a Christian and
 - **Act** like a Christian
 - And still be **lost**.
 - Because they **never had his sins removed** in the watery grave of baptism (**Matthew 7:21ff**).

- And now for one of the hardest verses to understand in all the Bible:

- Acts 22:16

Why do you tarry?

- arise, and be baptized,
- and wash away your sins,
calling on the
name of the Lord.

- Since baptism makes the difference between being saved and being lost, everyone should study this topic closely.

**All Scripture is given
by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction,
for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God
may be complete,
thoroughly equipped for
every good work
(2 Timothy 3:16-17).**

- **John 3:4,**

Nicodemus is trying to make sense of Jesus' statement from a physical point of view, which is the reason he asked:

"How can a man be born when he is old?

Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

- He thought Jesus' statement was **crazy** because he knew it was impossible to be physically reborn.

- So, Jesus restates what He said to help Nicodemus understand that He was talking about a **spiritual rebirth** and **not a physical one.**
 - To be born again, a person must be born of **water** and the **spirit.**

- To be born again,
a person must be born of water and the spirit.
- Since, these two elements are necessary for salvation,
 - It is important we take a closer look
 - at what they are
 - and how we are born again.

- The word water comes from the Greek word “**hudor**”, {**G-5204**} which simply means “**water**.”

- When John was baptizing, he baptized with water (**Mk. 1:8-10; 10:47**).
- When the apostles and disciples were carrying out The Great Commission, they baptized with water (**Acts 8:36-39; 10:47**).
- And Peter taught that one baptism is by water (**1Pet. 3:20-21**).

- Which is exactly what **Jesus described to Nicodemus** about being born again.
- At the point of baptism, **our old man of sin is put to death** as we are buried under the water.
- When we are raised from the water, we are born again as a new creature of Christ **without our sins.**

(2 Cor 5:17)

- In his monumental work,
[History of Infant Baptism,](#)
William Wall,

a leading scholar in the Church of England, asserted that not a single writer of antiquity denied the identification of the “water” of John 3:5 with baptism.

- He suggested that
John Calvin was the first
to disassociate the two items,

- And that Calvin
even conceded that
his interpretation
was “new”

(Oxford, 1862, Vol. I, p. 443)

(Jackson, christiancourier.com).

- There are numerous views regarding
John 3:5
Jesus answered,
Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born of
water and of the Spirit,
he cannot enter into the
kingdom of God.
 - **Martin Luther**
employed the words
Spirit and water
to mean the same thing.

- Not only does the Bible prove that Jesus is talking about **water baptism,**
 - All these early **non-inspired writers** understood that Jesus was talking about water baptism as well.

- Second,
let's examine
the word spirit
and how it relates to
being born again.
- We need to keep in mind
there is only
one birth,
and it consists of
water and spirit.

- Therefore, there are not two births as some teach.
- Jesus is teaching that the Holy Spirit is involved in being born again,
- But the question is, how?

- The Holy Spirit's primary purpose is to reveal the Word of God to us (Jn. 14:26; 16:13-15).

- Jesus said:
"It is the Spirit
who gives life;
the flesh profits nothing.
The words that I speak to you
are spirit,
and they are life"
(Jn. 6:63).

- Ephesians 6:17
The sword of the Spirit...
is the word of God:

- To further show how **the Holy Spirit works** in our conversion with water baptism, take a look at the following passage:

- **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,**

- **that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word**

(Ephesians 5:25-26)

- Notice the **three elements:**
 - **the word,**
 - **washing of water,**
 - **And cleanse.**

- The word is a reference to the Word of God.
- Washing of water refers to water baptism.
- Sanctify and cleanse refers to having our sins removed.

- **He saved us,
through the
washing of
regeneration and
renewing of
the Holy Spirit
(Titus 3:5).**

- Notice the three elements:

- Holy Spirit,

- washing of regeneration,

- and saved.

(Titus 3:5)

- Paul said,
“By one Spirit”
and not
“With one Spirit.”
(1 Corinthians 12:13)
- Proving that baptism
is not
Holy Spirit baptism
because it is
by the Holy Spirit.

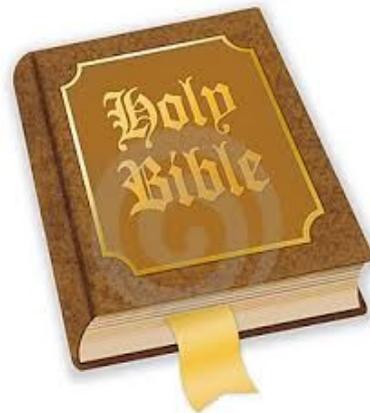
- The Holy Spirit instructs us through the Word that we must be baptized in water into the name of Jesus for the remission of our sins (**Acts 2:38**).

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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