

## Unity of the Spirit – One Baptism I Pet. 3:20-21

Introduction:

**Eph. 4:4-6** - There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; {5} one Lord, one faith, one baptism; {6} one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

If you can tell how important something is by the company that it keeps, then we can see how important baptism is because of the company that surrounds it.

Today, we will be looking at three popular stories from the Old Testament. These are stories and events that we are all familiar with. Our purpose in looking at these stories is to see that baptism has always been foreshadowed throughout the Old Testament.

### **I. Notice some Old Testament examples that foreshadow baptism.**

- A. Noah and the Flood (**Gen. 6-8**)
  - 1. God promised to destroy the world due to the wickedness of it.
  - 2. **I Pet. 3:20-21** - who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. {21} There is also an antitype which now saves us-- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
  - 3. Water was the element in which the old world was destroyed and the element by which Noah and his family were given a new start or a new beginning.
- B. Moses and the Red Sea (**Ex. 14**)
  - 1. **I Cor. 10:1-2** - Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, {2} all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.
  - 2. The waters of the Red Sea were the dividing line between slavery and death and freedom and life.
- C. Naaman the Leper (**II Kgs. 5**)
  - 1. When Naaman washed in the water of the Jordan River, his life was restored.

### **II. Each of these events is a foreshadow of baptism.**

- A. Baptism gives us a new life, as did the waters to Noah.
- B. Baptism is the dividing line between slavery and freedom; as did the waters of the Red Sea to Moses.
- C. Baptism cleanses us from the inevitable death due to sin as did the waters of the Jordan for Naaman the leper.

### **III. Notice the command in the New Testament for baptism.**

- A. We are commanded to be baptized.
  - 1. **Mk. 16:16** - He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
  - 2. **Acts 2:38** - Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- B. We are also told of the purpose of baptism.
  - 1. It is the blood of Christ that cleanses us from our sins.
    - a. **Heb. 9:22** - And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
    - b. **I Jn. 1:7** - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
    - c. **Eph. 1:7** - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,
    - d. **Mt. 26:27-28** - Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. {28} For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
    - e. We come into contact with that blood when we are baptized.
      - 1) **Gal. 3:27** - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
  - 2. It is in baptism that we have forgiveness.
    - a. **Acts 2:38** - Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
    - b. **Acts 22:16** - And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
- C. It is not that the water contains some miraculous powers, but it is the fact that we are obedient to God that cleanses us from our sins.

### Conclusion:

There is one baptism, and if we are going to be added to the church, we must obey Christ in baptism.