


A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM



A large, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots growing over stone ruins. The tree's trunk is massive and textured, with roots spreading out across the ground and over the stone structures. The background shows more stone ruins and lush green foliage. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment.

THE FRUIT OF
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A
TREE OF LIFE,
AND HE WHO IS WISE
WINS SOULS.

PROVERBS 11:30 NASB

PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLICAL *EVANGELISM* FOUND IN JOHN 4, “THE WOMAN AT THE WELL.”

TAKE

- TAKE THE INITIATIVE! JN. 4:6-9

OFFER

- OFFER GOD’S MERCY! JN. 4:10-14

IDENTIFY

- IDENTIFY SPIRITUAL NEEDS! JN. 4:9-10

CONFRONT

- CONFRONT SIN JN! 4:16-18

REJECT

- REJECT FALSE WORSHIP! JN. 4:19-24

REVEAL

- REVEAL CHRIST! JN. 4:25-26

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM.

1. BAPTISM PICTURES THE SAVING WORK OF JESUS CHRIST.

- **Notice: (Rom. 6:4-7)** *“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.”*

- This passage is saying that baptism is the picture of “**CALVARY.**” The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and our death, burial, and resurrection **with Him. (JESUS)**

A. DEATH, and BURIAL: The baptistery becomes a liquid tomb, and you're at a **funeral** service. Your sin is buried in the “**GRAVE OF FORGETFULNESS.**”

B. RESURRECTED LIFE: Baptism not only represents a resurrected **NEW LIFE**, but it pictures ultimate “**GLORIFICATION**” with Jesus as well. You're also at a **celebration** service, because it also pictures **EASTER, PENTECOST**, and the **SECOND COMING!**

2. BAPTISM IS A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE GOSPEL.

- **Notice: (1 Cor. 15:3-4) “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”**

3. BAPTISM COMES AFTER SALVATION, NOT BEFORE.

- This is why it's called "**BELIEVER'S BAPTISM.**" Notice: (Acts. 2:41) *"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls."*
- Notice: (Acts. 10:46-47) *"For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?"*
- Notice: (Acts. 16:31-33) *"They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. 33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. (PHILIPPIAN JAILER)*

“BAPTISM IS **NOT** “BAPTISMAL REGENERATION.”

“BAPTISMAL REGENERATION”—the view that teaches that one is saved (regenerated) through water baptism.

- **Notice (1 Pet 3:21)** *“...who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the **days of Noah**, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—**not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,**”*
- **“BAPTISM”** (from baptizō) simply means **“TO IMMERSE,” AND NOT JUST IN WATER. PETER** here uses baptism to refer to a figurative immersion into Christ as the **“ARK OF SAFETY”** that will sail over the holocaust of judgment on the wicked.

- **NOAH** and his family were immersed not just in water, but in the world under divine judgment. All the while they were protected by being in the ark. God preserved them in the midst of His judgment, **WHICH IS WHAT HE ALSO DOES FOR ALL THOSE WHO TRUST IN CHRIST.**
- God’s final judgment will bring *fire* and *fury* on the world, destroying the entire universe (**2 Pet. 3:10-12**); but the people of God **WILL BE PROTECTED** and **TAKEN** into the eternal new heavens and new earth (**2 Pet. 3:13**).
- **PETER** made clear that he *did not want* readers to think he was referring to water baptism when he specifically said, *“not the removal of dirt from the flesh”* (**1 Pet. 3:21**). **PETER** was actually referring to a spiritual reality when he wrote *“baptism now saves”* is also clear from the phrase, **“AN APPEAL TO GOD FOR A GOOD CONSCIENCE—THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST”** (v. 21).

- The word **“APPEAL”** has the idea of a pledge, agreeing to certain conditions of a covenant (**The New Covenant**) with God. What saves a person plagued by sin and a guilty conscience is not some external rite, but the agreement with God to get in the **“ARK OF SAFETY,” THE LORD JESUS, BY FAITH** in His death and resurrection. **(Rom. 10:9) Heb. 9:14, 10:22)**
- The only baptism that saves people is **DRY**—the spiritual one saves into the death as well as the resurrection of Christ—of those who appeal to God to place them into the spiritual ark of salvation safety. **Notice: (Rom. 10:9-10).**
*“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*
- Just as **THE FLOOD** immersed all people in the judgment of God, yet some passed through safely, (**NOAH AND FAMILY**) so also his final judgment will involve everyone, **BUT** those **WHO ARE IN CHRIST** will pass through securely.

- The experience of **NOAH'S FAMILY** in the Flood is also **ANALOGOUS** to the experience of everyone who receives salvation. Just as they died to their previous world when they entered the ark and subsequently experienced a resurrection of sorts when they exited the ark to a new post-Flood world, so all Christians die to their old world when they enter the body of Christ. **(Rom. 7:4-6); (Gal. 2:19-20); (Eph. 4:20-24).**
- They subsequently enjoy **newness of life** that culminates one day with the **resurrection to eternal life**. . . .
- Therefore, God provides salvation because a sinner, **BY FAITH**, is immersed into Christ's death and resurrection and becomes His own through that **spiritual union**. **SALVATION DOES NOT OCCUR BY MEANS OF ANY RITE, INCLUDING WATER BAPTISM.**



- There are **NO SHORTCUTS** or **RELIGIOUS RITUALS** that can achieve **SALVATION**—in fact, it’s not a product of human works at all. As **PAUL** writes in his letter to the *Ephesians*, ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast”*** (Eph. 2:8-9).

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. (ACTS 2:1-4)

- **Notice: (Acts. 2:1-4)** *“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”*
- Now this is a tremendous *transitional* passage. This is the greatest change that has occurred in all of the Scriptures. **"For it is the end of the OLD AGE and the birth of the NEW AGE."** The great crux of God's redemptive history is right here. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ issues itself in the sending of the Spirit and the birth of the new age, **THE AGE OF THE SPIRIT.**

1. THE **OLD AGE**, THE SPIRIT WAS **WITH YOU**.
 2. THE **NEW AGE** HE IS **IN YOU**.
 3. THE **OLD AGE**, men served God out of fear of consequences **UNDER LAW**.
 4. THE **NEW AGE**, men served God out of love for Jesus Christ **ENERGIZED** BY THE **INDWELLING** OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT**. It's a new economy altogether.
- There is **NO** way that we can possibly comprehend the **CHANGE** that is taking place here. Only God, Himself, can define this fantastic feat.
 - **Notice: the definition** of this change is found in (Jn. 7:37-39.) ***“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ” 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”***

- IN GOD'S REDEMPTIVE HISTORY, the **SPIRIT AGE** couldn't happen *UNTIL JESUS ASCENDED* and *WAS GLORIFIED* in heaven. So, in the great flow of history, Jesus must return to the Father *BEFORE* the Spirit can be sent. And that's exactly where we find ourselves in **(Acts. 2)**
- The closing of Chap. 1 is the **ASCENSION of Jesus Christ**, the beginning of Chap. 2 is the **COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**.
- This whole new age is called the **CHURCH**, the word “church” is from **ECCLESIA**, meaning **“CALLED OUT ONES.”**
- This is a **BRIDE** of Christ. These are **BRANCHES** for the vine Jesus Christ, says John.
- This is a **FLOCK** for Jesus, the good shepherd. This is a **MYSTERY KINGDOM** ruled by the Son of God. This is a **HOUSEHOLD**, a **FAMILY OF SONS** by adoption.
- This is a **BUILDING** says Paul, a **SPIRITUAL TEMPLE** with Jesus Christ as the foundation. This is a **BODY, HIS BODY**.

- There are people today who would tell you that there are some Christians ***WHO DON'T HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.*** These folks do not understand the dispensation of the church at all. They don't understand what the character of the church is. **IT IS A BODY OF BELIEVERS ALL INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT. IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING LESS THAN THAT.**
- That's why in Rom. 8:9 Paul said, ***“...But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”*** So, every believer possesses the Spirit. Here are just a few blessings received from the Holy Spirit.
 1. HE GIVES **INSTRUCTION/WISDOM.**
 2. HE GIVES **POWER.**
 3. HE GIVES **COMFORT/PEASE.**
 4. HE GIVES **SECURITY.**
 5. HE GIVES A **GUARANTEE** OF OUR **INHERITANCE.**

- **THE SPIRIT IS IN EVERY “TRUE” BELIEVER.** Now, our Lord promised that this would happen, and it happens here in **Acts 2**. The church is born and from then on, every believer **AT THE POINT OF FAITH IN CHRIST RECEIVES THE HOLY SPIRIT**. And this is why we believe that to be true.
- Now the Bible calls this the **“BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”** Jesus, Himself, gave it that title. **Notice: (Acts 1:5) “for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”**
- There is no doubt what **JESUS** was talking about when He said, **“NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW.”** He was talking about what would happen at **PENTECOST**, which was **10** days later. Jesus said, **“You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”**



- **THEY WERE *BAPTIZED* WITH THE *HOLY SPIRIT*.**
- ***JESUS*** had promised that the character of the church would be such that those who were in the church would be ***INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT***. He shall be in you and that they would be baptized in the Spirit.