

TWO OLD TESTAMENT PICTURES OF WATER BAPTISM

1. The nation of Israel went through the Red Sea. God delivered the nation of Israel from slavery and destruction in Egypt, through Moses. He led them to the Red Sea where God parted the waters. The children of Israel walked through this “watery grave” to freedom and liberty, while the army of Pharaoh, trying to pursue them were drowned. You can read this exciting story in *Exodus 12-14* and *1Cor 10:1-4*
We are baptised into Jesus who leads us through the waters of baptism from our old life of bondage to sin and Satan into new resurrection life in Him.
Romans 6:3,4.
2. The rite of circumcision. Circumcision, a cutting off of the flesh, was an outward sign of a man’s belonging to God’s covenant people. As we have seen, it is not “physical” circumcision that counts now, but a “spiritual” circumcision, which the New Testament declares is accomplished in baptism.
Read *Genesis 17, Romans 2:28,29.*

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

In the light of God’s Word, we challenge you to take this step of Water Baptism, (i.e. if you have not already done so), and thereby move on in God’s purposes for your life.

Tick **ONE** of the following:

I desire to be baptised

I would like to know more about Water Baptism.

I have already been baptised in the manner described in the New Testament

No 05

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Five: Baptism in Water

There are many “opinions” today amongst Christians concerning baptism in water. Our aim is to make sure that God’s Word alone is our judge on matters of doctrine. A wise maxim to remember is “all Scripture on a given subject is the doctrine thereof.”

DEFINITION OF “BAPTISM”

The word “baptism” is the English form of the Greek word “baptizo” which means “to immerse or dip,” i.e. cover wholly with fluid. (See Vine’s Dictionary.) The following verses indicate that in the Bible. *Mark 1:9,10; John 3:23; Acts 8:38.*

Notice that Jesus and His followers went **INTO** the water, and then came **OUT OF** the water, giving us an example to follow.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Read carefully *Matthew 3:13-17*, and answer the following questions:
What did Jesus come to John for? *v13* _____

What was Jesus’ reason to be baptised? *v15* _____

How was the Holy Spirit involved? *v16* _____

THE COMMISSION JESUS LEFT HIS FOLLOWERS

What authority does the church have to baptise new believers?

Matthew 28:18,19 _____

What importance did Peter put on baptism in the house of Cornelius?

Acts 10:48 _____

WHO MAY BE BAPTISED?

Acts 2:41 _____

What is necessary before a person is baptised? *Acts 2:38* _____

What else is necessary before a person is baptised? *Acts 8:12* _____

How soon after repenting and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ were the jailer and his family baptised? *Acts 16:31-33* _____

Therefore, anyone who has genuinely repented of his sin and has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can and should be baptised in water.

WHEN WERE PEOPLE BAPTISED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

“The same day” _____

“When they believed” _____

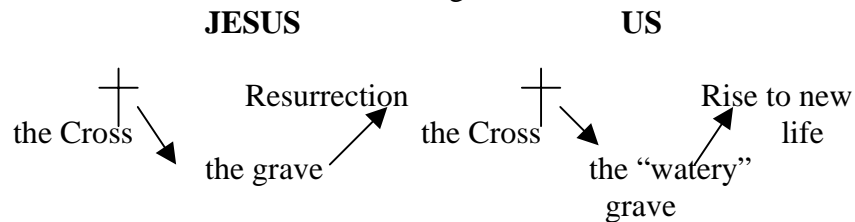
“The same hour” _____

Place the following references against the applicable words above:
Acts 16:33; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12,37,38; Acts 18:8.

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER BAPTISM

1. By being baptised a person expresses his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Read *Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48; Acts 8:16.*
2. By being baptised, a person is identified with the death, and resurrection to new life, of Jesus. Ponder over *Rom 6:1-11; Col 2:12.* Write out *Rom 6:4* here _____

A person rises out of the water with the same new life with which Jesus rose from the grave.



3. By being baptised a person is circumcised spiritually. *Col 2:11,12(AMP)* expresses this truth: In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a spiritual circumcision performed by Christ stripping off the body of the flesh, (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). Thus you were circumcised when you were buried with Him in your baptism, in which you were also raised with Him to new life through your faith in the working of God as displayed when He raised Him up from the dead.

In Baptism, then, we leave the old life dead and buried, and live in such a way that is glorifying to God.