

Hard Questions: Baptism

Matthew 3:1-17

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- 1.** 3:1-3 After 400 years of silence, God begins to speak once more through a new prophet, John the Baptist. John's message from God is summarized in one word: Repent. (John 1:23)
- 2.** Repentance is a radical transformation; it leads to a change of conduct.
- 3.** 3:7-9 The Pharisees and Sadducees were confronted by John because they think they have no sin. The precondition for baptism is to openly renounce sin. (Matthew 3:7-9)
- 4.** 3:8-9 At the day of judgment, your lineage will not matter; it's who you truly belong to that God cares about. If we truly belong to God, our lifestyle will be consistent with spoken convictions.
- 5.** 3:11-12 John preaches that the coming one demands repentance, and simultaneously brings judgment. He indirectly states that Jesus is coming in order that no one will need to face God's judgment.
- 6.** 3:11 John's baptism with water reflected a ritual mark of an outsider's becoming part of the chosen people; an outward profession of inward repentance. A second baptism is mentioned, baptism of the Holy Spirit, which took place at Pentecost. (John 14:16-17)
- 7.** 3:13 The 'water' purification can only be done if the soul has first been purified through repentance. John had difficulty baptizing the Pharisees and Sadducees because they were not worthy, and he was equally reluctant to baptize Jesus because He is too worthy! (John 1:29)
- 8.** Why would Jesus need to be baptized if He has nothing to repent of?
 1. Modeled obedience – He is giving an example of obedience to those who would come after Him.
 2. Represents His willing identification – The sinless Son of God identifying with the sinful people He came to save.
(Isaiah 53:12, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 3. A symbol of His death & resurrection – Imagery of being buried & resurrected when lowered into the water and coming back up again.

9. 3:16-17 For the church today, baptism represents a believer's identification with Christ's death & resurrection.
(Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12)

10. Baptism is not salvation, it's an indication of obedience to God's call on your life.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Kērussō – ‘to herald/announce’ - An official duty - proclaim loudly/extensively the coming of a king

Metanoeo – (met-an-o-eh'-o); to think differently, feel compunction, more than regret

Gennēma – (brood) - translated “offspring” - descendants of snakes

Mikveh – purification, restoration, and qualification for full participation in the life of the religious community

Baptizō – literally to dip an object into water

QUOTES

“That act symbolized before the world that they realized their racial descent, or even their calling as God’s covenant people, could not save them. They had to repent, forsake sin, and trust in the Lord for salvation.” ~ Dr. John MacArthur

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