

The Covenantal Nature of Baptism

Video Series Study Guide

SESSION



THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

TWO SACRAMENTS

Baptism

The Lord's Supper

Baptism is a part of the Great Commission but the thrust is to make disciples.

The foundation for baptism is laid in the Old Testament.

WHAT BAPTISM IS NOT

Not essential for salvation

Not an instrument of salvation

Not a sign to the world.

DEFINITION OF BAPTISM

The divinely appointed sign of the new covenant that marks the covenant people of God.

Christ practiced it.

Christ commanded it.

DEFINITION OF A COVENANT

An agreement initiated and administered by a sovereign, ratified by blood.

A covenant has a mediator.

A covenant has certain conditions and promises.

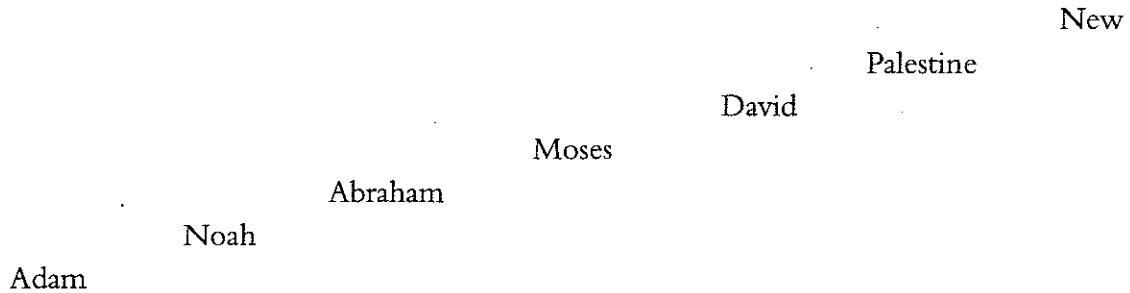
A covenant has a sign.

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The Meaning of Baptism

UNFOLDING OF THE COVENANT OF GRACE



TWO EVERLASTING SIGNS (Galatians 6:11-16, Romans 4:2-23, Colossians 2:11-14)

Circumcision The initiatory sign of the covenant.

Passover The renewal sign of the covenant.

The purpose of Old Testament signs was to point to Jesus Christ.

Circumcision is fulfilled in Christ.

Passover is fulfilled in Christ.

Circumcision is replaced by baptism.

Passover is replaced by the Lord's Supper.

We no longer need a blood sign because Christ has given believers:

A New Heart

A New Record

A New Spirit

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THE SUBJECTS OF BAPTISM

GOD'S SIGN TO HIS PEOPLE

Circumcision was a sign of God's promise.

Circumcision was applied to believers and their seed.

GOD'S PROMISE

... for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants (seed) after you. Genesis 17:7

UNDER THE NEW COVENANT

A new christian receives baptism not circumcision.

There is no ceremonial distinction between male and female, Jew and Gentile, slave or free.

EVERYTHING IN A PRECEDING COVENANT IS STILL IN PLACE UNLESS IT IS FULFILLED IN A SUBSEQUENT COVENANT.

Example: Circumcision is carried forward from Abraham to Moses

Passover meal carried from Moses to David

Judiaziers wanted to keep all Old Testament obligations.

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THE SUBJECTS OF BAPTISM

The sign has been altered because of the finished work of Christ.

The promise has not been removed.

GOD WORKS THROUGH FAMILIES

God initiates a covenant with us.

We do not initiate a covenant with Him.

THE NEW COVENANT IS SUPERIOR TO THE OLD COVENANT

God does not remove the children from this covenant of promise.

All but two of the baptisms in Acts were household baptisms.

I Corinthians 7:14 - The presence of a believer in a home will make an impact because of the Spirit of God within the believer.

“HOLY” MEANS SET APART

Children of believers are set apart in the covenant.

Our confidence is in a covenant keeping God.

Believers must bring the message of grace into the lives of their children.

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THE MODE OF BAPTISM

REVIEW

The meaning of baptism: the sign and seal of the New Covenant.

The subjects of baptism—the believer and the believer's seed are the same as the promises given in the Old Covenant.

In Christ, the male and female, Jew and Gentile, bond and free distinctions are removed.

THREE MODES OF BAPTISM

Immersion—*dipping*

Affusion—*pouring*

Aspersions—*sprinkling*

SEVEN REASONS FOR AFFUSION

1. Origin of the word—*baptizo* or *bapto*—means to ritually wash
2. Baptisms in the Old Testament
At least seven are described—none by immersion.
Acts of immersion were used in judgement in the Old Testament.
3. Prophecy of the New Covenant (Ezekiel 36:22)



The Mode of Baptism

4. Types (or kinds) of baptism in the Old Testament
 - Moses (I Corinthians 10:1-4)
 - Noah (I Peter 3:18-22)

5. New Testament accounts of baptism
 - Acts 16:33 Philippian jailer—in the house
 - Acts 8:38 Ethiopian Eunuch—a stream in the desert
 - Acts 2:41 3,000 baptisms in Jerusalem

6. Theological significance of baptism
 - Regeneration pouring out of Holy Spirit
 - Justification sprinkling clean

7. Baptism of Jesus
 - John's baptism was for sinners
 - Significance of the time and way

JESUS: PROPHET, KING AND PRIEST

- Prophet ministry could begin at any age
- King ministry could begin at any age
- Priest ministry could begin at age 30
 - Priest must be baptized to begin his ministry
 - Priest must be baptized by another priest

We are creatures of sight and sound God gives us a sign of our covenant relationship.

The signs are there to point us to the mediator of the New Covenant.

Our confidence is in the Savior, not the signs.

APPENDIX



RECOMMENDED READING FOR FURTHER STUDY

Adams, Jay	<i>The Meaning and Mode of Baptism</i>
Barie, James Montgomery	<i>God of the Covenant</i>
Benton, Jr., W. Wilson	<i>Your Baby's Baptism</i>
Chanez, James M.	<i>William the Baptist</i>
Hoeksoma, Human	<i>Believers and Their Seed</i>
Sartelle, John P.	<i>What Christians Should Know About Infant Baptism</i>
Schaeffer, Francis	<i>Infant Baptism</i>