

Six Biblical Baptisms

Ephesians 4:4-5ff

“There is... one baptism...”

What is Baptism?

- Baptidzo - from a derivative of bapto; to immerse, submerge; to makewhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially of the ordinance of Christian baptism; baptize, wash.
- Bapto - a primary verb; to whelm, cover wholly with a fluid; to stain (as with dye), dip.
- Simply put: to immerse, submerge, overwhelm

Three Baptisms Under The Old Law

- The baptism of Israel in the Red Sea
 - 1Cor. 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”
 - Their immersion in the water brought them symbolically into the covenant with God under Moses. It was a temporary type for Israel of the true baptism that would put us in covenant with Christ.
 - Similarly, the manna and water from the rock was Israel’s type of our communion with Christ, as was also the Passover
 - vs. 4-5 - “All ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”

Three Baptisms Under The Old Law

- John's baptism of repentance
 - Matt. 3:5-6, 11 - “Then went out unto him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about the Jordan; 6 and they were baptized of him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins... 11 I indeed baptize you in water unto repentance... (ASV)”
 - Mark 1:4 - “John came, who baptized in the wilderness and preached the baptism of repentance unto remission of sins. (ASV)”
 - John was preparing the way for Christ; his baptism was for the people to manifest their sorrow for departing from God's way, and their anticipation of cleansing in Christ

Three Baptisms Under The Old Law

- Jesus' baptism of suffering
 - Mark 10:38 - “But Jesus said to them, You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”
 - To be baptized with suffering means to be overwhelmed with it. Jesus was referring to his coming passion on the cross.

Three Baptisms Under The Law Of Christ

- Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - Matt. 3:11 - "...But He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
 - John 16:7-11 - "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

Three Baptisms Under The Law Of Christ

- The Holy Spirit would communicate the mind of God through the word that is the only means by which salvation can be found.
- The Bible writers were fill with, covered up, immersed in the Holy Spirit Who guided them into all truth.
- In one sense, believers must immerse themselves in scripture in order to be saved. Without the Holy Spirit, we would not be saved.
- The Holy Spirit was given in different measures to different men for different purposes; not all men received the full measure of the Spirit as given to the apostles

Three Baptisms Under The Law Of Christ

- Baptism of fire
 - Matt. 3:11 - "...but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
 - The tribulations, crosses, and afflictions, which believers in Christ are called to pass through; multiple passages speak of burdens and persecutions Christians will endure for the name of Christ. While there is no consistency or ritual associated with baptism with fire, it is universal in the sense that all Christians must deal with a measure of suffering with Christ.

Three Baptisms Under The Law Of Christ

- 2Tim. 3:12 - “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
- 1Peter 4:12-13 - “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings...”

Three Baptisms Under The Law Of Christ

- Baptism into Jesus Christ
 - Matt. 28:19 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**”
 - Mark 16:16 - “**He who believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
 - 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.”
 - Gal. 3:26-27 - “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For **as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ**.”

Three Baptisms Under The Law Of Christ

- Immersion in water validated and authorized by Jesus Christ for all penitent believers who want to be saved from their sins
- The **only** baptism in the covenant of Christ for all penitent believers desiring to be saved

Three Baptisms Under The Law Of Christ

- Acts 19:3-5 - “And he said to them, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ So they said, ‘Into John's baptism. 4 Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’ 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
- Acts 10:48 - “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.”

One Baptism

- There is one baptism
 - Eph. 4:4-5ff - “There is... one baptism...”
- In considering the six Biblical baptisms, we must answer these questions:
 - Who was the subject?
 - What was the purpose?
 - What was the duration?
 - How and by whom was it authorized and administered?

One Baptism

- The baptism of Israel in the Red Sea was to commit them to the covenant under Moses for the duration of the Law of Moses, administered by God. It is not valid for salvation today.
- John's baptism was for the Jews to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus; no longer necessary after coming of Jesus' Kingdom; administered by John the Baptist. It is not valid for salvation today.
- Jesus suffering was for Him alone, to pay for our sins, one time only, administered by Jews and Romans. It is not a baptism for salvation.

One Baptism

- Baptism with the Holy Spirit was for the apostles, Bible writers, and New Testament prophets for the purpose of revelation, to last until revelation was complete, and was administered by God through the apostles only. It was never intended for salvation.
- The baptism with the fires of persecution is for Christians faithful to Christ. Its purpose is to be partakers with Christ. It is for those who are already saved, not to obtain salvation.

One Baptism

- Baptism into Christ is for penitent believers for the purpose of removing sins. It is to be practiced until the Lord returns and is administered by Christians under the authority of Jesus Christ. It is the only baptism that is for salvation in the dispensation of Christ.
- 1Peter 3:21 - "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."