



Review:

Did you gain any insights as you read through Genesis 1-11?

BAPTISM

In the New Testament the idea of baptism is introduced by John the Baptist, developed by Jesus himself, and later by the Apostle Paul. Read the following verses to determine what each explained about baptism.

What do you think is the whole meaning behind baptism?

John the Baptist

Mark 1:4-5 (NIV)

⁴And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

What was the focus of John's baptism?

What do you think being baptized in water symbolized for all these people?

Focus: _____

Symbolism: _____

Jesus Christ

Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



Obviously Jesus, being perfect, didn't need to repent of any sin, so why do you think he might have chosen to get baptized?

- 1) What statement would Jesus' baptism have made regarding John's ministry and message?

- 2) Why did Jesus say he needed to do this to "fulfill all righteousness"?

- 3) Why would God the Father say he was pleased with his Son at this point?

- 4) In what stage of Jesus' ministry did his baptism take place?

JESUS BUILDS ON THE SYMBOLISM

Mark 10:38, 39 (NIV)

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with..."

Luke 12:50 (NIV)

But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!

Jesus adds a deeper symbolism to baptism.

What do you think he is really referring to when he talks about the baptism he'll have to undergo?



Apostle Paul

Romans 6:3-4 (NIV)

³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Colossians 2:12 (NLT)

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

According to these verses:

- 1) **What is the symbolism of being lowered into the water?**

- 2) **What is the symbolism of coming up out of the water?**

Read the following passages. Focus on why people were getting baptized.

Acts 2:36-41

³⁶"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.



Acts 8:34-38

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Acts 16:29-34

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family.

According to these verses, who should get baptized and when?

Picture Summary:

WATER:

GOING INTO THE WATER:

RISING FROM THE WATER:

WALKING OUT OF THE WATER:

HOME STUDY:

Read Genesis 12-20