

BIBLE STUDY: BAPTISM

Baptism is a very important experience at the beginning of the Christian life and is exceedingly rich in significance.

Baptism is not a religious ritual, nor is it merely a procedure to initiate someone into a Christian organization. The Bible shows us that baptism actually joins us to Christ and His Body and ushers us into a participation in His person, His death, and His resurrection with all His divine riches.

The footnotes of the Recovery Version provide invaluable insight into the meaning and significance of baptism. It also helps us to understand four types (or pictures) of baptism given in the Old Testament.

The Significance of Baptism:

1. Baptism in the Bible implies death, burial, and resurrection:
[Matthew 3:6](#) and notes [6¹](#) and [6²](#); [Matthew 3:16](#) and note [16¹](#); [Mark 1:4](#) and note [4³](#); [Mark 1:5](#) and note [5²](#); [Colossians 2:12](#) and notes [12¹](#) and [12²](#).
2. Baptism transfers us out of Adam into Christ and unites us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection:
[Acts 8:16](#) and note [16²](#); [Romans 6:3-5](#) and notes [3¹](#), [3²](#), [3³](#), [4¹](#), [4²](#), [4⁴](#), [5¹](#), [5²](#), and [5³](#); [Galatians 3:27](#) and note [27¹](#); [Ephesians 4:5](#) and note [5²](#).
3. Baptism puts us into the Triune God and brings us into a spiritual union with Him:
[Matthew 28:19](#) and notes [19⁴](#) and [19⁵](#).
4. Through baptism we become living members of the Body of Christ by being organically united with Christ and the Triune God:
[1 Corinthians 12:13](#) and notes [13¹](#), [13²](#), and [13⁵](#).
5. Baptism has two aspects—the visible aspect in water (the figure) and the invisible aspect in the Holy Spirit (the reality):
[Matthew 28:19](#) and note [19³](#); [Mark 1:8](#) and note [8¹](#); [Acts 8:36](#) and note [36¹](#); [1 Corinthians 10:2](#) and note [2³](#); [1 Peter 3:21](#) and note [21³](#).
6. To be baptized is to fulfill all righteousness—to be right with God according to His New Testament way; in this matter the Lord Jesus is our pattern, and we should follow Him:
[Matthew 3:15-16](#) and notes [15¹](#), [16¹](#), and [16²](#).
7. Baptism is our appeal to God for a good conscience before God:

[1 Peter 3:21](#) and note [21⁴](#).

8. Baptism is an outward affirmation that we have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and have received Him; thus, our believing and being baptized should go together, and baptism should follow our believing in Christ:

[Mark 16:16](#) and notes [16¹](#) and [16²](#); [Acts 16:15](#) and note [15¹](#); [Acts 16:33](#) and note [33¹](#).

The Old Testament Types (or Pictures) of Baptism:

1. Noah and his family passing through the flood within the ark ([Genesis 6:13-14](#); [7:1](#), [7, 23](#), [Hebrews 11:7](#); [2 Peter 2:5](#)):
[1 Peter 3:20-21](#) and notes [20²](#), [20³](#), [21¹](#), and [21²](#).
2. The children of Israel passing through the Red Sea ([Exodus 14:21-30](#)):
[1 Corinthians 10:2](#) and notes [2¹](#), [2²](#), and [2³](#).
3. Circumcision ([Genesis 17:10-13](#)):
[Colossians 2:11-12](#) and notes [11¹](#), [11²](#), [11³](#), and [12¹](#).
4. The children of Israel crossing the Jordan River ([Joshua 4:1-18](#)):
[Matthew 3:6](#) and notes [6¹](#) and [6²](#).

This Bible study uses verses and footnotes from the New Testament Recovery Version. You can order a free copy of the New Testament Recovery Version to use with this Bible study from www.biblesforamerica.org.