

Baptism, Conscience, and Resurrection

I. The Type, 20

Who formerly were disobedient

- Who? See v.19, spirits...
- While ark was being prepared
 - Describes time of their disobedience
- Longsuffering (holding out under provocation)
 - God's patience waited for repentance
- Waited in days of Noah. 2 Pt.2:5; Hb.11:7
- Few (eight) embraced Noah's preaching (2:4)
- Saved through water

Saved through water?

- Local sense: ark moving through water
 - “They experienced salvation in same way Noah did, namely by passing through water to safety” – Davids

Saved through water?

- Local sense: ark moving through water
- Instrumental sense: means of salvation
 - Water destroyed evil people; washed sins from earth ... saved eight from sinful world

Water took them from a sin-filled world to a clean new world

Water that destroyed the others, saved Noah and his family

- Noah / family saved ¹from death ²to new life

I. The Type, 20

II. The Antitype, 21

Antitype

“Baptism, which corresponds to this”
– ESV.

“Baptism, which this prefigured” – NRSV.

“A true likeness now saves you” – ASV.

Sinners are saved . . .

(1) from death...

(2) to a new life...

When? 1 Pt.3:21

Likeness or resemblance exists between Noah's salvation and ours

Points of resemblance in the two cases –

1. There is salvation in both; Noah, from death, and we from hell.
2. Water is employed in both cases – in case of Noah, to uphold the ark; in ours to be a symbol of purification.
3. Water in both cases is connected with salvation – A. Barnes

An antitype 'which' now saves??

- Antecedent: water
- “And corresponding to that...” – NASB
 - Correspondence, likeness, analogy: water in each case.

“What a perfect illustration this is of the way you have been admitted to the safety of the Christian ‘ark’ by baptism, which means ... the ability to face God with a clear conscience” – Phillips

An antitype 'which' now saves??

- Antecedent: water
- “And corresponding to that...” – NASB
 - Correspondence, likeness, analogy: water in each case.
- Gn.7:13-24, waters increased ...

water was the
means of destruction
of the wicked

water was the
means of deliverance
for Noah and family

Saving effect of water (escaping through water) [baptism]

- Eph.5:26, *washing of water with the word*
- 1 Co.6:11, *but you were washed...*
- Hb.10:22, *...hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water* [Ac.22:16; Tit.3:5]
- Ac.2:38, same preacher: Peter;
same conclusion: if we remove . . .
 - baptism ... what does repent do?
 - repent ... what does baptism do?

Summary

- Water that drowned the disobedient, saved those who entered the ark.
- Baptismal water destroys old man, saves all who are washed by it.

Not the removal of filth of flesh

Baptism is not
bodily cleansing
as in OT washings
(Hb.9:13-14)

Baptism is the
'answer of a good
conscience...'
(NKJV; KJV)

1. Objective: ‘an **appeal** to God for a good conscience’ – ESV; NASB; NRSV; BDAG; VINE...

Louw/Nida: “To ask for ... that which is asked for – ‘request, appeal’ ... baptism...is a request to God for a good conscience”

TDNT: “Not the putting away of outward filth, but prayer to God for a good conscience”

Williams: “Baptism, which corresponds to it, now saved you, too . . . the craving for a clear conscience toward God”

Goodspeed: “Baptism...not as the mere removing of physical stain, but as the craving for a conscience right with God”

1. Objective: ‘an **appeal** to God for a good conscience’ – ESV; NASB; NRSV; BDAG; VINE...

Thayer: “As the terms of inquiry and demand often include the idea of desire, the word thus gets the signification of earnest seeking, i.e. a craving, an intense desire (2 S.11:7) If this use of the word is conceded, it affords us the easiest and most congruous explanation of that vexed passage 1 Pet.3:21: ‘which (baptism) now saves us [you] not because in receiving it we [ye] have put away the filth of the flesh, but because we [ye] have earnestly sought a conscience reconciled to God”’ – p. 230

Two pictures

1. Objective: the **appeal** to God for a good conscience

2. Subjective: the **pledge** to God from a good conscience

Baptism pictures sinner on knees begging God to forgive him

Saved...committed to conditions of the covenant; pledges faithfulness

2. Subjective: 'the pledge to God proceeding from a good conscience'

Describes one who is committed to conditions of the covenant; he pledges faithfulness to the covenant.

Romans 6⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- Do we bury a live man??

What about the 'good conscience'?

1 Peter 3¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed

We face hostile opponents just as Jesus did (v.18).

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Our salvation is as real as Lord's resurrection (v.21).

His resurrection – our salvation

- Baptism derives its saving effect from Lord's resurrection.

Without His resurrection, baptism would be an empty form. Ro.6⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

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II. The Antitype, 21

III. The Parallel

Hebrews 10:22, evil conscience

- Why? Guilt of sin... consciousness of sins (10:2).
- But the conscience can be cleansed (10:22)
 - NOT with OT blood of animals (9:12-13)
 - BUT 9:14 – how much more shall the blood of Christ...**cleanse your conscience...**

Num.19, blood /
ashes of heifer to
cleanses the unclean

Hb.9:14, how much
more **blood of Christ**
cleanses conscience

1 Pt.3:21 corresponds to this

- Not ceremonial cleansing, but of sin
- Baptism saves us, not by removing filth of the flesh, but by an appeal to God for good conscience

Baptism deals with same thing Christ's blood deals with: our conscience and guilt of sin

Baptism is begging God for clean conscience

One who submits to scriptural baptism relies on blood of Christ for pardon. 2 K.5

Baptism is not the savior

- Baptism is the Lord's means or instrument of salvation...just as Noah was saved “through” water, not “from” it.
- Questions –

1. Is baptism
God's idea
or man's?

2. Does God
have right to
set the
conditions?

3. Is it safe
to reject
God's plan?