

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS ...

WHAT DID IT REALLY INCLUDE? ... WHAT DOES IT UNVEIL FOR US?

INTRODUCTION

Matthew 3: 20-25: (20) *Then came to him the mother of Zebedees children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.*

Mrs. Zebedee (picturing Mother-Church) along with her two (apparently mature) sons, James and John, were worshipping Jesus with the desire of receiving a specific blessing. So many can only see heavenly things in a natural environment. Jesus outlined special blessings that He was making available, but not quite what she expected or wanted.

Jesus answered a question with a question to lift their vision higher ...

Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of AND to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? The challenge went out to those early disciples and now goes out to you ...

ARE YOU ABLE ?

The disciples answered, 'Yes, *we are able.*' Jesus replied, '*Ye shall drink indeed of my cup' ... and ... be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with.*Now comes the question to us .. Are you able? Let us investigate all this entails so you can be ready to take this leap of faith.

'Ye shall drink indeed of my cup' ... Jesus had a calling to lay down His life to release blessing for others ... not for Himself. Will you walk this path? It will cost you all of your own will ... your free-will goes! Basically a CUP relates to a calling, a testimony or a destiny ... or all three.

Mark 14:23-24 *And He took the cup, and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them: and they all drank of it. (24) And He said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.*

Jesus had pure blood from His supernatural birth. Now we shall see why Jesus connected the 'cup' with 'baptism'. The last supper, communion the cup represented the blood Jesus was to shed at His death ... which baptism showed specifically. Jesus' blood took on the entire sin of the world ... it thus became the red blood of Adam tainted with the sin of failure, self etc. *The life of the flesh* (soul) *is in the blood* (Lev. 17:11). Taking on this sin-death-blood from Adam and all his descendents, His blood changed and the death that was with Adam (*the soul that sins shall die*) had to be made of no further effect by destroying the flesh/body which manifested it. So His body needed to be broken showing that there was no reversal to the situation. Hence we can see that *the cup* and *the baptism* were in partnership.

He then shed that life source on behalf of all men ... your source of the Adamic, natural, fallen life was removed. It is only the 'Eve', the female (reproductive) soulish part of you that can resurrect that life and create a lie. *For ye are dead and your* (true resurrected) *life is hid with Christ in God* (Col.3:3). God's word says 'we are dead' ... believe it. So we must relate with the 'Last Adam-Christ' within and not listen to the words/thoughts of the enemy carnal-mind within the 'last' Eve.

Taking of His cup of the last supper, you gratefully declare that your Adam-natural-carnal ego is dead and that you are now alive in Christ. Can you drink of His cup that of identifying with what He achieved?

Now comes the big AND ...

Ye shall ... be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:

In this discourse we will look at what the baptism that Jesus went through included; so the details and the overall picture are important. It was a pattern for the 'called-out' people to experience by faith... for *the things that I do, you will do also* (John 14:12). The way to accomplishing this is the laying down of one's ego-life in reality not just theory. Now will you, dear reader, answer the same challenge, 'Are you able to be baptized with the baptism that Jesus experienced and all the subsequent things it portrays?'

I believe Jesus was communicating what we should and can experience. We need to search the scriptures and discover all that was included in His baptism so we can answer with understanding and thus sincerely. Your answer will come out of the degree of revelation that you have received and yielded to and how much of His thinking you rely on. Remember it is the Indwelling Holy Spirit that teaches all things to the teachable — those willing to change from walking by sight to walking by faith.

The Greek word used for *baptism* is **BAPTIZO** which means **IMMERSED** OR **SUBMERGED**. This action of being baptized gives one a point of contact to release one's faith to receive all it portrays.

Many, if not most of us, have been baptized in water with a heartfelt desire to obey the Lord. That is a wonderful and important part of our foundation in Christ. **Hebrews 6:1-3** also says that the teaching on baptism is in the **plural**. Foundations are for building upon and the building God will add to your foundation will be to experience all the parts of Jesus's baptism as we enter through the torn veil into His fullness expressed in His body here on earth. The water baptism begins the release which is then reinforced by the Holy Spirit baptism which by some has been relegated to a separate experience or discarded altogether and then the baptism of fire is rarely mentioned ... probably experienced first where God (*who is a consuming fire*) will burn up the wood, hay and stubble of the 'hangover' of your old life! Paul tells us that there is only **ONE baptism** (Ephesians 4:5) ... obviously he is speaking about the spirit realm and if that is the case, then we were baptized in Him, with Him ... we therefore experience in the spirit all that His baptism entailed ... now we have to manifest, as we grow, each aspect as He desires.

PROVISION 1

JESUS WAS BAPTIZED IN JORDAN

MATTHEW 3:13 *Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.*

The location was very important. The nation of Israel of old was baptized in the sea (water) and in the cloud (Spirit) (1 Corinthians 10:2) when the priests were enabled under Joshua's instructions to go into the river Jordan (veil) and stand there for the people to pass over into the Promised Land.

Joshua 3:1-11 ... The Jordan river is the river of death or immortality and separated the people of God from their true inheritance and destiny. God moved upon the waters of that river and stopped its flow all the way back to the city of Adam and all the way on to the Dead Sea. Israel walked over on dry ground, the provided way. The priests who carried the ark were 2000 cubits ahead of the rest of the people. They could not see or experience what the priests were doing for one cannot clearly see a kilometre down the trail (just over ½ mile). They followed on and enjoyed the provision made thus catching up with those first-fruit priests. In passing, those apprehended to be ark-carriers in this hour will not be understood by the majority of God's children for they, by His plan, are 2000 cubits in the spirit behind for a season.

Jesus was baptized about the same location in that same river where Israel passed over to their promised destiny. Jesus provided by what he portrayed, our way into the Promised Land of the fullness of His life on earth (i.e. the resurrection life of Christ). It was the priests with a special calling who held the presence of God (Ark) ... it was priest John who held Jesus the Christ (Ark).

Conclusion No.1 ... Jesus's baptism fulfilled the pattern of stopping death (mortality) and making a way whereby we can fulfil our destiny with a different timing than that of other folks'.

PROVISION 2

TO Fulfil ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS

MATTHEW 3:15 *And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.*

Christ, *the Lamb of God, was crucified* (slain) *from the foundation of the world* (Rev. 13:8) ... that is in the timeless zone of spirit, which is where God is, which is called heaven. All things were known and planned with the glorious purpose of our Father, El Elyon. The Holy Spirit God was to take on form which would be the object of His love and in turn, would willingly return that love to Him. The complete plan in all its details was righteous — the right expression of life and included for all things to work together for success. In Father's plan, the Christ aspect of Himself was given the cross assignment which would pave the way for all of creation to be brought back into a love-union harmony with Father. (Romans 11:36). We all came out from God, go through with God and eventually go back into God ... so nothing is lost. In His great plan of the ages, God would manifest every aspect of Himself ... bringing it from the unseen realm of spirit into the seen realm of man.

In the same pattern, we too have our foreknown callings and election in Him. *Christ, who is the image of God* (2 Cor.4:4) in us takes on form and brings us through to full accomplishment of God's purposes.

The righteousness of God's infinite plan was fully released in Jesus Christ at His baptism as He manifested the pattern for us to follow ... namely in His death, burial and resurrection. It had already taken place in the spirit and now in the actual out-working of the plan, Jesus brought all the aspects into focus at Calvary culminating with the announcement, *'It is finished'*.

Remember we were in Him every step of the way. We were *crucified with Him* (Gal.2:20), we were *buried with Him* (Rom.6:4) and we were *raised with Him* (Rom.6:5+8) ... thus released into our predestinated calling.

Conclusion No.2 ... The potential for fulfilling our individual part in God's great plan is released to us and that, we cannot deny, is right living or righteousness. We will fulfil it.

PROVISION 3

THE HEAVENS WERE OPEN TO HIM

MATTHEW 3:16 *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

The ability to commune with God and to hear His voice (My sheep hear My voice) and know too that he is heard of Him. The spirit descending UPON Him refers to (in our scenario) the baptism in the Holy Spirit where every reference to that in our New Testament has the word *on* or *upon* in it thus differentiating it from the 'with' and 'in' relationship to the Holy Spirit. There is only one baptism according to Paul (Eph.4:5) but many parts or aspects. The baptism of the Spirit releases the ability to hear from the Lord — by *His still small voice* or by revelation under His tutorship. *My sheep hear My voice*, said Jesus.

The open heavens unveil the will of God ... His ways and His timings ... all by revelation to the prepared heart. We shall see the pattern also being enacted by Elijah and Elisha ... Elisha receiving the same anointing as that which was upon Elijah ... more on that later.

Like a dove declares that all these dealings are with great gentleness for a dove is very easily frightened. This baptism will also bring one to a state of quietness and rest because of the confidence released within.

PROVISION 4

THIS BAPTISM LEADS INTO BEING ADOPTED

MATTHEW 3:17 *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

The pronouncement that Father gave over Jesus was the pronouncement used in the adoption ceremony when a father would take his first-born son that had been by his side maturing. Until that time, this son, as a servant, would have been learning all the ways of his father and expressing the same characteristics as his father. The father would publicly pronounce that he was adopting his son. (This has nothing to do with the modern meaning of adoption). In the Greek *adoption* is *HUIOSTHESIA* which means **THE PLACING OF A MATURE SON**. From this point onwards, this child would no longer be treated as a servant but as a son receiving the full nature of his father, his full provision and his full authority. He would now go forth as his father. Jesus was adopted by His Father and following the testing that took place, would show all three attributes in his ministry. Don't overlook this ... a servant does not inherit only a son does! Even young ones in a family have an inheritance but it is kept in trust by older members of the family.

Matthew 17 gives the account of the corporate Christ being adopted fulfilling the pattern that Jesus underwent at the Jordan via baptism. Bear in mind one cannot be adopted twice ... so this account refers to the body of Christ ... the first-fruits company taken from among the Church — just as only three out of the twelve disciples witnessed this at the mount of transfiguration.

Conclusion No.4 ... This baptism leads the way into understanding and experiencing the adoption of the Father. The suffering to this ego-flesh right now is not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be unveiled in us. This is the journey to the throne of ruling and reigning where 'servants' do not reign ... for that is disquieting to the earth and its creator (Prov. 30:22).

PROVISION 5

JESUS WAS MADE A PRIEST

Following Matthew's account, Luke adds this ... **LUKE 3:23** *And Jesus began to be about the age of 30.* The number '30' in scripture always refers to maturity. So we see that this baptism of Jesus carried within it many aspects that would become real with maturity. Jesus had come through an intense training time some of which is reported outside of the covers of our bible.

30 was also the age required to be made a priest. (Numbers 4: 29, 35 & 38) relates that the Levitical priests were 30 years old or more when selected to do the priestly work of God in the Tabernacle. Jesus was of the tribe of Judah of which there were no priests by birth ..the tribe of Levi provided all the priests under the old order/covenant. Therefore it remained that Jesus had to be made a priest.

Hebrews 5:5 *And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. (5) So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. (6) As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

This is **THE INITIATION INTO THE PRIESTHOOD**, not of the old order, but the new order that of Melchisedec.

Being just a believer does not constitute the office of a priest for that office carries with it a realm of responsibility which a child or babe in Christ is not usually aware.

A Melchisedec Priest is a spiritual priest ... nothing of the flesh or earthly is involved. You could rightly say he is supernatural. For as **Hebrews 7** declares, (1) *For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;* (2) *To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;* (3) *Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

Melchisedec is a KING-PRIEST ... so being baptized into this arena there will come a specific calling to be a king as well as a priest ... Peter calls it *a royal priesthood* (1 Peter 2:9). The qualifications for becoming or being made a priest after the order of Melchisedec are all supernatural (see verse 3 above).

So in Jesus's baptism there is an ingredient of **PEACE** and also of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** — not only knowing about such but experiencing it in one's life as one matures into fully manifesting it.

Your resumé will change ... verse 3. Without natural origins and death overcome made like the Son of God. One would need a supernatural birth ... from above ... and be *like* Christ, Son of God (2 Corin. 4:4). The first man (Adam) made in *the image and likeness of God* was a spirit-man who was given authority to rule (have dominion over). He failed and was 'transformed' from spirit to flesh. The supernatural spirit-man only fits the bill. This baptism is the first step towards being transformed from this earthly realm back to the spiritual realm. Remember, *he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit* (1 Corin. 6:17).

Conclusion No.5 ...Baptism of Jesus was the initiation into the priesthood. We too are expected to mature to the spiritual age of 30 and be apprehended into this important priesthood which leads to the throne where the ruling and reigning is carried out — moving in new dimensions of peace and righteousness.

PROVISION 6

PREPARATION FOR ASCENSION

... of being caught up into **the spirit realm** to a higher place of reality. Let us look at the account of Elijah and Elisha crossing over to the other side at the river Jordan. Remember Elijah, manifesting from the unseen spiritual realm) appeared with Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration.

2 Kings 2:1-15 gives the account of Elijah (a picture of Christ Jesus) taking Elisha (a picture of the overcomer-first-fruits) with him crossing the Jordan river (the veil of the temple) on dry ground (split veil from Calvary onwards) just as Israel of old did. 'Dry ground' speaks of overcoming death which is experiencing immortality. Now Elijah so crossed Jordan and then later was 'caught up' to the spirit-realm called heaven and did not see death. Because of the trailblazing by Elijah coupled with the heart-cry of Elisha for the same anointing and authority. *They two walked together* ... they walked in **a father-son relationship** as seen by the dialogue when Elijah ascended. *My Father, My Father* ... Elisha crossed Jordan by faith in using the word of Elijah with the imparted anointing. We can now ascend into a higher spiritual awareness or dimension in Christ. This is referred to as transformation or transfiguration ... you will note that in Jesus's life it was fulfilled after the resurrection. On the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17) the corporate Christ was adopted fulfilling the pattern that Jesus introduced and demonstrated.

By contrast Jesus **went into** Jordan river of death/mortality as resurrection life. *I am the resurrection and*

the life ... this same life is made available to us ... just as Elijah gave the same victorious anointing (mantle) to Elisha who moved in it to experience the same. Like Elisha we can go through on dry ground which shows that death has been removed ... *death is swallowed up of life* (1 Corin. 15: 54b +57). *The things that I do, ye shall do also* and ...

Conclusion No.6 ... Resurrection life of the fullness of the Spirit experience has been released to us as we are baptized with the baptism Jesus went through. Transfiguration come as we follow on to truly know the Lord in oneness. *I and My Father are one.*

PROVISION 7

IDENTIFICATION VIA UNION

Read the following verses again slowly and let their communication sink deep within your spirit.

Romans 6: (1) *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?* (2) *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?* (3) *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?* (4) *Therefore **WE ARE BURIED WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* (5) **FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN PLANTED TOGETHER IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH, WE SHALL BE ALSO IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION:** (6) *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.* (7) *For he that is dead is freed from sin.* (8) *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:* (9) *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.* (10) *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.* (11) *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Baptized into His death ... It was YOU on the cross .. it was YOU who was buried and it was YOU who was raised to walk into the new life of spirit... so you are dead; your old Adam ego is dead. Your 'old man' is dead, so why do we move in unbelief and resurrect 'him' and then believe the lie that he is alive? The 'Eve' in us, our RNA represents the feminine in us and the ability to reproduce; 'she' will act without any reference to the Last Adam (Christ) in us, our DNA if we allow it. Paul always adds a 'putting-on' after there has been a 'putting-off'. Also in **Colossians 3:1-4** (1) *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.* (2) *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

(3) *For ye are dead, and your (plural) life (singular) is hid with Christ in God.* 'Your life' is the corporate life of Christ.

CONCLUSION No.7 His baptism was corporate ... so I was actually baptized with His baptism. All of mankind died in Him, as Him and that includes each one of us.

Galations 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ* ...confirms this. *As in Adam all die ... so in Christ shall all be made alive* (1 Corinthians 15:22).

PART 8

UNITY IN CHRIST'S BODY

Galations 3:27-29 (27) *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

(28) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.* (29) *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Those BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST have put on Christ ... have put his thinking above one's own. We have moved from majoring on the natural to seeing and grasping what is in *the spirit which is not temporal but eternal* (2 Cor. 4:18). Also, one starts to see what God has promised for you in Christ ... in the spirit-realm. *Baptized into Christ* ... immersed into the very nature of the Father that was manifest in Christ for

He is the image of God.

CONCLUSION No.8. From this baptism there comes a whole new concept of unity. Previous walls go down and a unity is created through acceptance. One's attitude including blame, is dissolved. Those folk we have previously written off as unsavable are now seen in a new light that they are Christ's and will in due time get their eyes opened.

he expectation as well as the provision in the baptism of Jesus that we have identified with ... can you believe for the experiencing of those provisions, all of them? Can you? We can be baptized with the same baptism that Jesus experienced for us. We simply need to ask the indwelling Christ to enable us to believe what has been provided therein. *This is the work of God that you believe* (John 1:29). Thus our complete destiny will be manifested and the glory of the Lord will be seen in this visible realm. §