

- **What was Baptism in Jesus' time done for?**
 - Proselytes to join Israel
 - Show you were joining a Jewish Sect
- **Examples in Scripture connected with Baptism**
 - **Creation and the Spirit over the Waters (Genesis 1:2 NIV)**

"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

 - The Spirit of God hovering over the waters at creation.
 - **Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9)**
 - God cleanses the earth with a flood, saving Noah and his family through the waters.
 - **The Birth of Moses and His Journey on the Nile (Exodus 2:1-10)**
 - Baby Moses is placed in a basket and set adrift on the Nile, later to be rescued and raised by Pharaoh's daughter.
 - **The Crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-31)**
 - The Israelites pass through the Red Sea on dry ground, escaping from Egyptian slavery.
 - Required they trusted God
 - Rabbinic story of water up to their nose before parting
 - God redeemed them before he gave them the 10 commandments and other laws through Moses
 - God had them pass through the water before they began their journey into the wilderness
 - **The Crossing of the Jordan River (Joshua 3:14-17)**
 - The Israelites cross the Jordan River on dry ground, entering the Promised Land.
 - God had them pass through the water before they began their journey into the promise land
 - **Elijah and Elisha at the Jordan River (2 Kings 2:6-14)**
 - Elijah parts the Jordan River with his cloak and crosses it with Elisha before being taken up to heaven. Elisha then parts the water in the same manner.
 - **Naaman's Healing in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5:1-14)**
 - Naaman, the Syrian commander, is healed of leprosy after dipping seven times in the Jordan River as instructed by the prophet Elisha.
 - **Jonah and the Great Fish (Jonah 1:11-17)**
 - Jonah is thrown into the sea and swallowed by a great fish, symbolizing a form of passing through water to new life and mission.
 - **John's Baptism (Mark 1:4-5 NRSV)**
 - John the Baptist: "John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins."
 - Baptism as a public act of repentance and forgiveness.
 - **Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22)**
 - Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, marking the beginning of His public ministry.
 - **Peter's call to repentance (Acts 2:38-41 CEB)**
 - "Peter replied, 'Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you,

your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.' With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day."

- Baptism is linked to repentance, forgiveness of sins, and receiving the Holy Spirit.
- **Samaritans Respond to Philip's Message (Acts 8:12-13 CEB)**
 - "After they came to believe Philip, who preached the good news about God's kingdom and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Even Simon himself came to believe and was baptized. Afterward, he became one of Philip's supporters. As he saw firsthand the signs and great miracles that were happening, he was astonished."
- **The Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)**
 - "Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. As they went down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing." Acts 8:35-39 CEB
 - Philip baptizes the Ethiopian eunuch in water after explaining the gospel to him.
- **Paul's Baptism (Acts 9:17-18 CEB)**
 - "Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Instantly, flakes fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized."
 - After his conversion, Saul, also called Paul, is baptized.
 - * Note: Paul's name was not changed! Roman Citizens are born with 3 names. For Paul, a trade name (which we don't know), an ethnic name (Saul), and a Roman name that sounds like their ethnic name (Paul).
- **Gentiles Receive the Spirit and are Baptized (Acts 10:47-48 CEB)**
 - "'These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?' He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days."
- **Lydia and her Household are Baptized (Acts 16:14-15 CEB)**
 - "One of those women was Lydia, a Gentile god-worshipper from the city of Thyatira, a dealer in purple cloth. As she listened, the Lord enabled her to embrace Paul's message. Once she and her household were baptized, she urged, 'Now that you have decided that I am a believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house.' And she persuaded us."
- **Jailer and his Household are Baptized (Acts 16:30-33 CEB)**
 - "He led them outside and asked, 'Honorable masters, what must I do to be rescued?' They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your entire household.' They spoke the Lord's word to him and everyone else in his house. Right then, in the middle of the night, the jailer welcomed them and washed their wounds. He and everyone in his household were immediately baptized."

- **Corinthians Believe and are Baptized (Acts 18:8 CEB)**
 - "Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household came to believe in the Lord. Many Corinthians believed and were baptized after listening to Paul."
- **Baptism in the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:1-7 CEB)**
 - "While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took a route through the interior and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you came to believe?" They replied, "We've not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "What baptism did you receive, then?" They answered, "John's baptism." Paul explained, "John baptized with a baptism by which people showed they were changing their hearts and lives. It was a baptism that told people about the one who was coming after him. This is the one in whom they were to believe. This one is Jesus." After they listened to Paul, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in other languages and prophesying. Altogether, there were about twelve people."
- **Acts 22:16 CEB**
 - "'What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins as you call on his name.'"
 - Paul speaking about his baptism that happened back in Act 9
- **What do the Scriptural examples tell us about baptism?**
 - Water in biblical narratives often symbolize purification, salvation, transformation, and new beginnings.
 - Before Moses' new beginning, he is placed in water.
 - Before the journey into the wilderness and promise land, they had to pass through water.
 - Before Elisha's, Jonah's, and Jesus' ministry, they passed through water.
 - All of this points to the idea that if you want to start a journey with God and be cleansed, then you should be baptized.
 - John's baptism was about repentance (changing your heart and life)
 - Jesus baptism
 - Often done right away after coming to belief
 - Involves a filling of the Holy Spirit
 - Connected with joining the community of Christ
- **Scriptures about Baptism**
 - **Matthew 28:18-20 NIV**
 - The Great Commission: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"
 - This passage emphasizes the command to baptize as part of the mission of the Church.
 - **John 3:5**
 - New birth: "Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.'"
 - Baptism is associated with spiritual rebirth and entering the kingdom of God.

- However, it is debatable whether "born of water" is referring to one's initial birth or baptism. We know you can enter the kingdom of God without baptism, but not without being filled with the Spirit, which happens the first time when you receive Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- **Romans 6:3-4**
 - Union with Christ: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."
 - Baptism symbolizes dying and rising with Christ, representing a new life in Him.
- **Galatians 3:27-28**
 - Identity in Christ: "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."
 - Baptism signifies putting on Christ and the unity of believers.
- **Ephesians 4:4-6**
 - One baptism: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."
 - Highlights the unity and universality of baptism in the Christian faith.
- **Colossians 2:12**
 - Buried and raised with Christ: "When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead."
 - Similar to Romans 6, this text emphasizes the transformative power of baptism through faith.
- **1 Peter 3:21**
 - Baptism as a pledge: "Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."
 - Baptism is described as the commitment of a good conscience toward God, linked to the resurrection of Jesus.
- **What do the Scriptures about baptism tell us?**
 - All disciples are commanded to baptize.
 - Baptism symbolizes being buried in the likeness of his death and raised in the likeness of his resurrection
 - It represents a new life in Christ.
 - Baptism is about putting your identity in Christ and unity with him and his body, the believers.
- **Summarize what stands out to you about what baptism is?**
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