

UNLOCKING PROPHECY #18

Buried and Forgotten by God

† Matthew 28:19, 20, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

† Baptism is mentioned more than 80 times in the New Testament.

How many methods of baptism are there?

† “One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5).

† Baptism: What does it mean? The Greek word, “baptize” means “to dip”, “to immerse”, to plunge underwater.

† When did other forms of baptism enter the church?

- It was not until the Council of Ravenna in AD 1311 that sprinkling and pouring were officially accepted as equally valid as immersion in the rite of baptism.

† How was Jesus baptized?

1. Mark 1:9, *“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”*
2. John 3:23, *“Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.”*
3. Jesus’ baptism, by full immersion, was a significant event in His life. Your baptism will be a significant event in your life. Two special things that happened to Jesus at His baptism
 - 1) Matthew 3:16, 17, *“... 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...”* First, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus. Acts 10:38, *“... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.”*
 - 2) Matthew 3:17, *“This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* When you are baptized, once again the Father will say, “This is my beloved son; this is my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased.”

† Believers down through the centuries have experienced the joy of making a full commitment to Christ through baptism.

† The Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized: Acts 8:36-39, *“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water...”*

What is the meaning of Bible baptism?

† Romans 6:3, 4, *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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.”*

† The Bible says that baptism, not Sunday keeping is the symbol of the resurrection.

† Baptism Means:

1. Dying to the old sinful way of life.
2. Burying our sins in the watery grave.
3. Rising up again out of the water to walk a new life.

† Baptism doesn’t mean you’re perfect; it means you’re committed to Jesus.

† Baptism is not the end of the Christian life. It is the beginning.

What happens when we are baptized?

1. Every sin is forgiven. Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.’”*

- a. How many should be baptized? Everyone. Somebody says, “Wait a minute, what about the thief on the cross? He was never baptized? Where would the thief have gone if he had come off the cross? He would have gone to be baptized. So the Bible says baptism is for everyone not just a select few.

2. The Spirit is given to us. Mark 1:10, *“And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.”* Acts 2:38, 39, *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.’ And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”* When God calls you to baptism and you are cleansed. He promises you the gift of the spirit to empower your life.
3. We are adopted into God's family. We become part of a body of believers. Acts 2:41, *“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”* Who is “them”? Acts 2:47, *“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”*
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13, *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”*
 - b. 1 Corinthians 12:20, *“But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.”*

What steps should a person take before being baptized? Steps to baptism:

1. Repent - a genuine sorrow for sin. (See Acts 2:38.)
2. Believe - an acceptance of Jesus as both Savior and Lord. (See Mark 16:16.)
3. Learn - instruction in the essentials of Biblical faith. (See Matthew 28:19-20.)

Should a person ever be re-baptized?

- † Acts 19:2-5, *“He said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ So they said to him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’ And he said to them, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’”* Now, John had baptized them by immersion—the Bible way. *“Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”*
- † Here are people that were baptized by immersion by John but were re-baptized by immersion by Paul. Why? Because they discovered more truth.
- † An individual may desire to be re-baptized if:
 1. They once were baptized and departed from Christ, but now long to return.
 2. They are committed Christians who have discovered the truth of God's Word, and desire to be part of His commandment keeping people.
 - If you are a Christian, by going into the water you are not denying your Christian experience. When John’s disciples were baptized they did not deny their previous experience. They said “we’ve learned a larger body of truth and want to move ahead, we want the further truth that God has.”

How important is baptism?

- † John 3:5, *“I tell you the truth, no man can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”* Mark 16:16, *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”* 2 Corinthians 6:2, *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”* Acts 22:16, *“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”* Revelation 7:14, 15, *“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb...”*