

THE BAPTISMS OF THE BIBLE

Introduction

1. There is a lot of confusion in the religious world today over the subject of baptism.
 - (1) Its purpose and mode is misunderstood because of poor New Testament translations and teachings of error by wholesale millions of people.
 - (2) One also finds complete confusion when he looks into the subject of **HOW MANY BAPTISMS ARE THERE?**
2. **Ephesians 4:5** - "There is one baptism."
3. Someone says I thought there were six baptisms in the Bible. That is right, the controversy comes over four of the six.
4. Two over which there is no controversy.
 - (1) The baptism of suffering. **Mark 10:35-40**. The cup and baptism are used figuratively to describe the sufferings and death of Christ.
 - (2) The Red Sea baptism (**I Corinthians 10:1-2**). They were covered by the sea and the cloud. **THESE TWO ARE PASSED!!**
5. It is in the final four baptisms that there is much misunderstanding, and because of the misunderstanding there is much error taught.
6. Some basic rules of study.
 - (1) Notice four specifics about each baptism.
 - A. By whom
 - B. Element
 - C. Purpose
 - D. Duration

I. The Baptism of John. Matthew 3:11-12

1. John came to prepare the way of Christ (**Mark 1:2**) He preached baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
2. John's baptism has not been valid since Christ commanded baptism in His name.
Acts 18:24-26; 19:1- 5

3. Yet, in spite of this explicit teaching, some today claim to baptize with the baptism of John.
4. The four questions:
 - (1) By whom? -- John.
 - (2) Element? -- Water.
 - (3) Purpose? -- Prepare the way for Jesus.
 - (4) Duration? -- Til Pentecost when it was replaced by the baptism of the great commission.

II. The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

1. Four questions; then we will look at it in depth.
 - (1) By whom? -- Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Element? -- Holy Spirit.
 - (3) Purpose? -- Approval.
 - (4) Duration? -- Limited.
2. **Matthew 3:11.** John said one was coming who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. This came true. **Acts 2:1- 4.**
 - (1) Christ had promised the Spirit to the apostles. **John 16:7; 14:26.**
 - (2) The baptism of the Holy Spirit was not to make them followers of Christ. They had been followers for some time.
 - (3) It was not to save them. I have never heard that taught.
 - (4) The baptism of the Holy Spirit was to:
 - A. Teach them and to bring to their remembrance. **John 14:26; John 16:13.**
 - B. To bear witness of Christ. **John 15:26.**
 - (5) **Note this:** The baptism of the Holy Spirit was never a command. It was not even hinted as such. IT IS ALWAYS SPOKEN OF AS A GIFT OR A PROMISE.

3. Acts 2 and perhaps Acts 10 at the house of Cornelius are the only two recorded examples in the New testament of Holy Spirit baptism. Certainly Paul was baptized in the Holy Spirit, but the example of that baptism is not recorded for us. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was **never** a command, therefore, it can never be obeyed. It was a gift from Christ which had a designed purpose. The **only** one that could administer such was Jesus himself.

III. The Baptism Of Fire. Matthew 3:11

1. Look at the four characteristics of the baptism of fire.
 - (1) Who will administer it? Christ. **Matthew 3:11, 12.**
 - (2) What is the element? Fire, unquenchable fire. (**Matthew 3:12**). We hear of a lot of people praying for the baptism of fire. THEIR PRAYER IS BEYOND ALL REASON. NO ONE WANTS THIS BAPTISM -- UNQUENCHABLE FIRE!
 - (3) Purpose? Punishment. Look at verse 12. Fan in his hand -- separate wheat from chaff. This reminds you of: **Hebrews 2:3** -- "**How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.**" **Revelation 20:15** -- "**If any was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.**"
 - (4) Duration? -- Spoken of as in the future. In **Matthew 3:12** it is still in the future. It will begin at the close of this world and will last forever!

IV. The Baptism Of The Great Commission.

1. The great commission (**Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15, 16**). This is not John's. His has ended. It is not the Spirit; Jesus did that. This is not the baptism of fire. This is different. Men could do this.
2. Look at the four distinguishing marks:
 - (1) Who administers it? Men; disciples.
 - (2) What is the element? Just plain water.
 - (3) The purpose? For the remission of sins.
 - (4) The duration? Until the end of the world, **Matthew 28:20.**

3. Now please notice: In **Ephesians 4:5** -- about 61 A.D. How many baptisms were there? O-N-E!!! John's baptism was gone. The Holy Spirit baptism was gone. The fire was yet in the future. That leaves just one. **THE BAPTISM OF THE GREAT COMMISSION. The one that was being practiced every day when Paul wrote Ephesians 4. THIS ONE IS TO LAST UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD. THEN WILL COME THE BAPTISM OF FIRE.**

CONCLUSION:

- | 1. <u>BAPTISM</u> | <u>BY WHOM</u> | <u>PURPOSE</u> | <u>ELEMENT</u> | <u>DURATION</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| John's | John | Prepare way | Water | Christ |
| Holy Spirit | Christ | Approval | Holy Spirit | Limited |
| Fire | Christ | Punishment | Fire | Eternity |
| Great Commission Baptism | Man | Remission | Water | Till end of world |
2. When **Ephesians 4** was written there was just one baptism. That baptism was a water baptism, administered by man. Which of the four baptisms in question must this baptism be?
 3. It is not the baptism of Moses because this happened hundreds of years before Christ. **I Corinthians 10:1, 2.**
 4. The one baptism is not Holy Spirit baptism.
 - a. Holy Spirit baptism to be administered by Christ. **Matthew 3:11.**
 - b. Baptism of the Great Commission to be administered by men. (**Matthew 28:19**) and to last until the end of the world. (**Matthew 28:20**)
 - c. The only baptism administered by men was water. (**Acts 8:38; 10:47**).
 5. Thus the "one Baptism" is the baptism of the Great Commission.