

TWO REAL-LIFE PICTURES OF WHAT BAPTISM PICTURES

"A waterproof box & a well-dressed prince"

Baptism Sunday. Which raises questions.

For example, **WHO** is being baptized?
And perhaps, **HOW** will they be baptized?
And even, **WHERE** will these baptisms take place?
But most importantly, **WHY**?

To answer the most important question, we begin this morning by thinking about Noah --- from the Bible ---- as in "Noah and the Ark."

1. **WHAT NOAH WAS:**

Genesis 6:5-8 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." But **Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD**. These are the generations of Noah. Noah was **a righteous man, blameless** in his generation. **Noah walked with God.**

NOT REALLY THE CHARMING CHILDREN'S STORY IT SOMETIMES IS THOUGHT TO BE.
ACTUALLY, A STORY ABOUT THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD AND THE MERCY OF GOD.

a) a man favoured by the LORD

Genesis 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was **a righteous man, blameless** in his generation. **Noah walked with God.**

b) a man "righteous" and "blameless" who "walked with God"

ALSO:

c) "a herald of righteousness"
2 Peter 2:5

NOW, about that ark... (O.J. Simpson; Bill Cosby)

2. **WHAT THE ARK WAS:**

Genesis 6:10,11-22 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark ... Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

a) a very large waterproof box

Perhaps it seems I have raised yet another question; ("why"): **WHY are we thinking about Noah?**

1 Peter 3:20,21 ... God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. **Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you...**

b) a real-life picture of what baptism pictures

Being baptized is a picture of being saved from the judgment of God by being "in Christ."

Something said by John the Baptist:

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but **the wrath of God remains on him.**

THE WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST, According to John”

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

3. WHAT BAPTISM PICTURES:

a) being saved through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 3:21,22 ... Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

NOW ... this is not ALL that baptism pictures.

Luke 4:14-21 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Isaiah 61:1, 2 ... 10,11 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor ... I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for **he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

b) being saved by the righteousness of Jesus Christ

Galatians 3:26,27 ... in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:26,27 [NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE] ...you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

→ **Galatians 3:26,27** All you sons and daughters of God, through your faith in Jesus Christ, being baptized, have clothed yourselves with the righteousness of Christ.

ANOTHER QUESTION: A VERY IMPORTANT ONE: **WHY WOULD ANYONE NOT WANT THAT?**

People DO have their reasons! Enormously important things are at stake in their reasons.

NEXT SUNDAY: March 1

John 11:25,26

“The resurrection and the life”

[Jude St.John]

DIGGING DEEPER

THREE OTHER PICTURES OF WHAT BAPTISM PICTURES

Read and think about what the following Scriptures are saying about baptism.

Romans 6:3,4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

1. Baptism pictures _____

1 Corinthians 12:12,13 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

2. Baptism pictures _____

This third picture (the fifth over all) is a little tricky, in that the word “baptism” isn’t used...

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by **the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior**, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

3. Baptism pictures _____