

Why Jesus Became the Son of Man

Mat 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

Baptism

Gk.907- to make *whelmed* (that is, *fully wet*): -wash. There are different modern definitions for baptism so we first need to understand that this is not a 'sprinkling' or a 'pouring' but an immersion. After stating that He was to be delivered "to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified" (*Mat 20:19*), "the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to Him" (*v. 20*) making the request for her sons to sit on His right and left in the kingdom. Before stating that her request was not His to give (*v. 23*)...

Mat 20:22 ... Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized (*907-whelmed*) with the baptism (*908-baptism [technically or figuratively]*) that I am baptized (*907*) with? They say unto Him, We are able. (*According to an Interlinear, the KJV uses a correct translation of this verse.*)

Jesus was asking whether they were able to be '*whelmed*' with the kind of suffering He was about to be '*whelmed*' with. Was He about to be sprinkled with suffering? Was He about to be 'poured' over with it? Absolutely not! He was about to be immersed into it, thus here we find that baptism, besides being a burial, is an immersion. So...

I. Why do we need to be baptized?

As humans, we can be tempted to sin every day. Temptation in and of itself is not sin, but when we give in to it, it "brings forth death" (*Jas 1:15*). When we understand that Jesus was given "All authority in Heaven and earth" (*Mat 28:18*) we can, by His own words, understand why we need to be baptized. In Mk 16:16 Jesus stated the reason for **our** being immersed in water, as He was in the Jordan, is for **us** as a means of obedience to receive remission of our sins, and thus, to "be saved".

II. Why was Jesus baptized?

Joh 1:29 The next day (*Mat 3:13 when "Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him"*) he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!"

- As "Lamb" John understood the purpose for Christ's coming in the first place.

1Co 5:7 ... For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

- True, Jesus was and is sinless. But, as the Son of God He could not be tempted with evil until **after** His baptism, as we will find in Mat 4. And He performed no miracles before that since He hadn't yet been "full of the Holy Spirit" (*Lk 4:1*) by Whom His miraculous power was evidenced (*Mat 12:12*). Telling John it was "to fulfill all righteousness" (*Gk.3956/1343- "every righteous ordinance"*) Jesus was saying He had to become one of us (*Son of man- Mat 8:20, etc.*) in order to be tempted since Satan cannot tempt God (*Jas 1:13*). Once Satan found that he **could** tempt Jesus, our Lord as was prophesied, "was wounded for our transgressions; ...and with His stripes we are healed" (*Isa 53:5*).

Heb 9:22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.** (*Emp. Added*)

Heb 10:4 For it is **impossible** for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said, "Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but a body have You prepared for Me;" (*Emp. Added*)

Php 2:7 but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the **likeness of men.** 8 And being found in **human form**, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (*Emp. Added*)

Heb 2:17 Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because He Himself has **suffered when tempted**, He is able to help those who are being tempted. (*Emp. Added*)

His baptism had another meaning as it pertained to O.T. Law of the priesthood as it was a "righteousness ordinance" of initiation into the office of High Priest (*Ex 29:4*). Before He could become our High Priest (*Heb 7:27*) He also needed to obey that ordinance, having lived before He had yet to "fulfill" the O.T. Law and prophets (*Lk 24:44*). So, the Son of God became the Son of man in order that the children of man can have the opportunity "to become the children of God".

Joh 1:12 But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name (*Gk.3686- authority*), He gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were **born***, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God.** (*Emp. Added*)

*Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

III. What, then, does baptism represent?

1Co 10:1 For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

- Baptism indicates a 'covenant relationship' exists between (*at least*) two parties. Those of the Old Covenant who "were baptized into Moses" were recognized as being in a covenant relationship with Moses and thus the Mosaic Law. Those of the New Covenant who are "baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (*Gal 3:27*) and are thus recognized as being in a covenant relationship with Him. When we "put on" something we wear that garment in order to cover our nakedness, just as Adam and Eve were clothed with "garments of skins" (*Gen 3:21*) to cover their 'nakedness' after realizing such when they ate of the forbidden fruit (*Gen 3:10-11*). Animals had to be sacrificed in order to clothe them and cover their shame. Under the New Covenant, "the Lamb of God" (*Jn 1:29*) "our Passover is sacrificed for us" (*1 Cor 5:7*) in order to cover our 'nakedness', a.k.a., our sin. When writing to the church at Laodicea, John was to admonish them, telling them they were "wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked" and were to purchase from Christ "white garments so that [they] may clothe [themselves] and the shame of [their] nakedness may not be seen" (*Rev 3:17-18*). Thus 'nakedness' equates to sin!

Mat 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and he (*John*) saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; 17 and behold, a voice from Heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

- God publically acknowledged Jesus as His "beloved Son" right after His baptism. Was He God's Son before that? YES!

Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with God. (*Gen 1:26 "Let Us make man on Our Own Image..."*)

- Are we God's children before we are baptized? YES! But there comes a time when we come to "the knowledge of good and evil" (*Gen 2:17*) and lose that same relationship that Adam and Eve once enjoyed before they fell from His grace. We can only be "justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (*Rom 3:24*). Where is that grace found? ONLY IN CHRIST! How do we get "in Christ"? Through coming into a covenant relationship with Him in our obedience to baptism.

IV. How does baptism wash away sins?

Water, in and of itself, will not wash away sin, just as water without detergent will not wash dirt from laundry. Christ's blood, in and of itself, will not do it either, just as detergent by itself will not do the job. In baptism, think of water as the activating agent and Christ's blood as the cleansing agent. When both are combined, literal water with, by faith (*Col 2:12*), the blood of Christ, baptism based on obedience to Scriptural truth will "save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him (*Christ*), since He always lives to make intercession for them (*those of the priesthood over which Christ is High Priest*)" (*Heb 7:25*).

Col 2:11 In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

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