

The Baptism Story

An epic story that sets up God's plan of Judgment and redemption for all mankind! This is the story of how God dealt with the world's sin problem and restoring man's relationship with him through cleansing and covenant.

God's First Covenant with Man

In the beginning God created Adam & Eve. They were given the command to be fruitful and multiply and to rule over all living creatures on earth. They enjoyed a beautiful relationship with God where He walked with them daily in constant communion.

Sadly, they were deceived and sinned by disobeying God eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Sin and death entered the world and the hearts of men, severing the relationship between God & man. This then caused a cascading effect throughout every generation of mankind to be born separated from God. As a result the evil in man's heart grew and grew.

Genesis 5-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People Increased Greatly - Nearly 1 Billion people estimated• Wickedness Increased• Sexual Perversion Increased• The Family Structure Broke Down• Violence Increased• Minds of men filled with every kind of evil	Today - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population increasing rapidly - We now have 8 billion people• Wickedness out of control• Sexual Perversion out of control• Family structures barely exist• Violence out of control• Minds of men still filled with every kind of evil
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God chose to Judge the evil that was now covering the earth. He did so with a flood. Wiping out every living creature, including man, except one (Noah and his family). God said Noah was the only righteous person alive, and therefore he kept him from death and protected him.

When the flood was over God made this promise (the first covenant) with Noah:

Genesis 9:11 "I will establish my covenant with you, Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

1 Peter 3:20 - to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

God's Second Covenant with Man

Throughout the remainder of Genesis and Exodus we see evil in the hearts of men grow again. This time perhaps even worse than before. Eventually God chooses a group of people to become his own and He called them Israel (which means God Preserves). They were eventually captured and enslaved. God delivers his chosen people from the bondage and slavery of Egypt. He does this through a flood! Miraculously leading his people through the red sea to safety, while drowning the Egyptians! Shortly thereafter God established His second covenant with man (Exodus 19). And then giving Moses (God's chosen leader for his people) the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. If the people follow His rules they will remain righteous before God.

Exodus 19:5-6 & 14 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes.

Notice in verse 14 Moses consecrates the people by washing their clothes. They become ceremonially clean, separated from all other people through washing of water.

God's final covenant with Man... The New Covenant

In time, it became quite clear that man would not be able to live according to God's laws. In fact it would prove to be impossible to keep them and sin offerings would be required to cleanse a person from their sin and enable them to be restored to righteousness with God again. This was a constant process because it never really dealt with the sin problem and people needed to make sacrificial offerings continually as a result.

How was God going to deal with the sin in man's heart? He promised to never again wipe out evil by killing everything, and all humanity, even his own people are unable to remain clean and righteous before God. How is God going to solve this problem? The answer is... Jesus!

The New Covenant Explained

Hebrews 8:7-12

The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

Gods Plan for Judgement & Redemption

Instead of putting man to death again, God puts his own son to death... for man. Jesus' death and resurrection would put to death the power of sin within man. Jesus would be the sacrifice needed to cleans us from all unrighteousness and restore us to right relationship with God. In fact, the blood of Jesus is so strong, that when we put our faith in His death and resurrection we are immediately taken from the kingdom of darkness and placed into the kingdom of the son. Forever in right standing before God as if sin never happened. We are fully restored to the original image and purpose of man in the beginning. To walk in continual communion with God.

Romans 6:3-7

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.”

Man is Made Righteous

Romans 5:14-19

Death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Our Relationship with God is restored

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Our Sins have been paid for with death.

Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

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Romans 5:9-10 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Baptized with Fire!

Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with[c] the Holy Spirit and fire.

Acts 2:38 - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 - And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'