Clips from Psalms

Psalms 105:32-35

“God gave Egypt hail for rain and flaming fire in their land. He smote their vines also and their fig trees, and brake the trees of their borders. He spoke, and the locust came, and the grasshopper, and that without number, and did eat up every herb in their land, and did eat up the fruit of their ground.”

Baptism

There are at least seven important aspects of Baptism, as revealed in the Bible, that prove that submersion in water is an act of obedience that one does to receive forgiveness and entrance into the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

First, Baptism is a fulfillment of God’s promise to bless all nations through the seed of Abraham (see Genesis 12:1-4). The Apostle Paul tells us that God fulfilled his promise to Abraham through Christ’s sacrifice for man’s sins (see Galatians 3:8-16). Paul goes on to say that baptism is the way one gets into Christ and receives the blessings of salvation (Galatians 3:27).

Secondly, the Apostle Peter was asked, by a crowd that had been convicted of their sins, what they must do to be saved from the consequences of their sins (Acts 2:37). Peter replied saying, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). The Lord commands baptism for the forgiveness of sins because it is compatible with the mind of man. Washing with water equals cleansing (see Acts 22:16 and Titus 3:5-6). The prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36:25) and David (Psalms 51:2, 7) foretold of this cleansing in the Old Testament. The washing of one’s souls is a powerful way of seeing the significance of baptism. When Naaman was told to wash in the Jordan River seven times for cleansing and healing he complied with the command and was cleansed from the disease of leprosy (see 2 Kings 5:1-14). Baptism is how one gains access into God’s grace (see Romans 5:1-3; Ephesians 1:7 and Acts 2:38).

Thirdly, baptism is a type of death. The Apostle Paul instructs men and women to “die to sin” through the act of baptism (see Romans 6:1-11). When one hears the gospel message, is pricked in the heart with guilt over their sins, and moved to Godly sorrow and repentance they are instructed to be baptized (see Acts 2:37-38 and 2 Corinthians 7:10). When one is baptized they die to their old sinful way of living and purpose to never sin again (1 John 3:9).
Fourthly, we read about God’s indestructible kingdom or church throughout the Old Testament scriptures. God’s kingdom will be composed of the meek, righteous, and just (see Isaiah 28:17; Zechariah 8:16-17 and 9:9). Jesus said that it would be these qualities of the Messiah that his church would be established upon (see Matthew 16:18-20). When meek (compliant) people seek out the kingdom of God they will find it and be supplied an entrance into it when they comply with the command to be baptized (see Acts 2:37-44). Baptism his how one gains access into the kingdom of God or church. Baptized members of God’s kingdom are sanctified from the world of sinful men and women.

Fifthly, baptism is a new birth. Jesus told Nicodemus that conversion is like being born all over again at John 3:1-15. Nicodemus did not understand how one could be re-born. Jesus explained that when one hears truth and responds in obedience through water baptism that there is a new creature formed with a new objective in life. The new creature is the Christian (2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 6:15) and the new purpose is holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16).

If baptism is a burial (Romans 6:1ff), a new birth (John 3:1ff), and a cleansing (Acts 22:16) it makes sense that one should be completely submerged in water rather than sprinkled (see John 3:23 and Acts 8:26-38). The Greek word for baptism is baptizo and means to be immersed, submerged, dipped under water, washed, or overwhelmed with water” (see LS 146, Moulton 65, AG 132, and Thayer 94).

Sixthly, baptism saves one by water. Noah and his family were saved by water when they complied with God’s command to build the ark and faithfully wait (1 Peter 3:21). Similarly the Apostle Paul told a crew of 276 men that they did not abide in the ship they would not be saved by water (Acts 27:31). People are saved from the consequences of their sins when they comply with God’s command to be baptized.

Fifthly baptism is the way one “puts on Christ” in character and life (Romans 13:14). The Apostle Paul tells us that the way people put on Christ is through baptism (Galatians 3:27). All that Christ is I am to be and this starts with baptism (see Romans 8:29 and Colossians 3:12). Christ was meek, obedient, and compassionate and so must we all.

Seventhly, baptism clears the conscience of the sinful person who has asked the interrogating questions regarding salvation (see 1 Peter 3:21 and Hebrews 9:11-14).

I ask you the same question Ananias once asked Saul. “What are you waiting for? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16). Dear friend, don’t let a man in this world tell you baptism is not necessary for salvation when the Bible clearly says that it is.