

SYMBOLS OF BAPTISM IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- The Spirit of God hovering on the face of the water. The new creation was from water and Spirit.
- The Flood (1 Peter 3:20-) Noah's ark was surrounded by water all around, a symbol of baptism, the dove, which came back with the olive branch, is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and the olive branch is a symbol of peace, which we attained by reconciliation with God. This is the picture of baptism in which we are saved from death and corruption, through the power of Jesus Christ's resurrection.
- Circumcision is a symbol of baptism. Circumcision symbolizes the removal of the body of sins, so that the good and uncorrupt nature that God created in us would reappear. In addition, circumcision is a symbol of entering a covenant with God, likewise in baptism we become members united in Jesus Christ.
- The Red Sea crossing (Exodus 14), Pharaoh was a symbol of the devil. Their crossing of the Red Sea was a form of baptism, saving them from Pharaoh and offering a new beginning away from sin. The cloud that led them is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
- The Bronze Basin (Exodus 30:17): The Lord instructed Moses saying, "you shall also make a bronze laver, and its base also of bronze for washing, and you shall put water in it". The priests used to wash their hands in the bronze basin before offering a sacrifice as a sign of cleansing from sin in baptism before accepting Jesus Christ in communion as our everlasting sacrifice.

Importance of Baptism in the New Testament

- **The Lord commanded**
 - The Lord commanded His apostles saying, "*Go then to all people everywhere, and make them disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*" (**Matthew 28:19**).
 - "*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God*" (**John 3:5**).
- **In the day of Pentecost**
 - When the Jews accepted faith on the day of Pentecost, St. Peter called upon them to be immediately baptized saying,

“Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38).

- **The Ethiopian Eunuch**

- He asked to be baptized immediately after accepting the faith saying, *“Here is some water, what is to keep me from being baptized” (Acts 8:30).*

Effect of Baptism

REMISSION OF SINS

- Titus 3:5

SALVATION

- He who believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16)

DEATH AND RESURECTION

- Therefore we were buried with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4-6)

PUTTING ON CHRIST

- *“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27)*
- Romans 6:6-7

Why Should Baptism be by Immersion?

- *“Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death” (Romans 6:4).* Burial can only be done by immersion in the water.
- Baptism is washing away of sins *“Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins” (Acts 22:16)*
- The Lord Christ Himself was baptized by immersion, *“Then Jesus when He had been baptized came up immediately from the water” (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10).*
- Only due to scarcity of water was baptism by pouring water over the head permitted