

WHY DID JESUS GET WATER BAPTIZED?

In order to answer this question, we must first answer these questions:

- I. Are the historical Baptist (or denominational) explanations **scriptural**?
 - A. Did Jesus institute water baptism as a New Testament Ordinance for believers today? **NO!!**
 - Heb. 9:14-17 - Jesus' water baptism occurred **before His death**, therefore it was performed under the Old Testament Law.
 - Jesus came to John the Baptist and was water baptized under the "baptism of John". - Luke 7:29; Matt. 3:11-13
 - Therefore water baptism is an **Old Testament ordinance FOR ISRAEL** that God originally instituted as a **ceremonial washing or cleansing**.- Ex. 30:17-21, Ex. 40:9-12, 30-32; Lev. 8:6, 18-21; Ezek. 36:25, 40:38; Heb. 10:22
 - B. Did Jesus **command** believers today to be water baptized in what is known today as the "Great Commission"? - **NO!!** Matt. 28:18-20
 - This is a "**kingdom commission**" given to the eleven disciples (v.16), which got postponed due to Israel rejecting God's 2nd offer of the kingdom, but will be fulfilled in the future Millennial Kingdom.
 - C. Was Jesus establishing a pattern for believers to follow today? **NO!!**
 - Jesus' ministry was focused on the nation Israel, preaching the gospel of the kingdom. - Matt. 4:23, 9:35, 10:1-8, 15:24; Mark 1: 14-15; Rom. 15:8
 - Did Jesus need water baptism to accompany a repentance, confession, or remission of sins? **NO!!** - Gen. 18:25; Job 34:10, 12; John 8:46; Heb. 4:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:21-22; cf. Matt. 3:1-6; Acts 2:38
 - Did Jesus need water baptism to receive the Holy Ghost? **NO!!** - Jesus Christ is the Holy Spirit personified. - John 1:32-34; Col. 2:9
 - D. Do believers today need to be water baptized as their first act of obedience or to prove their belief/trust/faith in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ is genuine? **NO!!**
 - Even though Paul was given the "signs and wonders" gifts **as an Apostle** (healings, tongues, raise the dead, and even conducted a few water baptisms in the transitional period), Paul never teaches or commands water baptism is doctrine for today in the Age of Grace (Church Age). - 1 Cor. 1:10-18

- II. What does **the Bible** say were the reasons Jesus got water baptized?
- A. To **SUBMIT** to the requirements of the Mosaic Law, which was in effect at the time of His water baptism. - Matt. 3:13-17
- Jesus was water baptized as a ceremonial Old Testament ordinance to “**fulfil all righteousness**” (v. 15) of the OT Law.
- B. To **IDENTIFY** with the believing remnant of Israel. - Luke 3:21-22
- **Unbelievers** (including the Pharisees, lawyers, religious leaders, etc.) rejected “**the counsel of God**” and refused to be water baptized. - Luke 7:29-30
 - This means that **water baptism** was instituted by God as a necessary part of John’s gospel (Gospel of the Kingdom) as God’s required expression of true faith/belief in God.
- C. To **MANIFEST** Himself as the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God to the nation of Israel. - John 1:15-34

CONCLUSIONS

1. Water baptism is **not** a New Testament Ordinance.
2. Water baptism was instituted by God as an **OLD TESTAMENT** ceremonial washing/cleansing for the priests, offerings, clothing, etc. for the nation of Israel under the Law.
3. Only John’s gospel (the gospel of the Kingdom) included water baptism.
4. Jesus never established or commanded water baptism to be in effect for anybody in the Age of Grace; the Church today is to be under the doctrines found in the Pauline epistles.
5. Jesus’ water baptism is **not an example** which we are able to follow today in the Age of Grace, because **WE ARE NOT THE NATION ISRAEL!**
6. Nowhere in scripture is water baptism a prerequisite for membership in a local church today or a prerequisite for taking of the Lord’s Supper.
7. Nowhere in scripture is water baptism a prerequisite to any position of service or any office in a local church today.
8. Nowhere in scripture is water baptism given as a believer’s first step of faith or first act of obedience in a local church today.
9. The “Great Commission” of Matt. 28:18-20 can be used **practically** today to motivate soul winning, but it is **not** doctrine for the church today.
10. Today in the Age of Grace, we should do all we can to **SEPARATE** water baptism from the Plan of Salvation (the gospel of the grace of God).

“ONE BAPTISM” EFFECTIVE IN THE AGE OF GRACE → SPIRIT BAPTISM
 Eph. 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:10-12 (Notice there is **NO WATER BAPTISM** in any of these references!)