

The Tabernacle: God's Blueprint for Relationship, Part 3

Exodus 25:8-9 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may **dwelt** among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the **pattern** of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

The entire purpose of the Tabernacle was so that a holy God could have a relationship with sinful people. But this relationship would only function properly if the people put the tent together right; if they did, then God promised that He would show up with His power and provision!

The Tabernacle was God's **ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT** for relationship, and it foreshadows everything else that comes later in the Word of God. In other words, our relationship with God must follow the **same pattern!**

VERTICAL - God's Plan of SALVATION			
Brazen Altar	Blood	Death	Repentance
Brazen Laver	Water	Burial	Baptism
Ark of the Covenant	Spirit	Resurrection	Holy Ghost
HORIZONTAL - God's Plan of SANCTIFICATION			
Golden Candlestick	Witness	Light of World	Light in the World
Altar of Incense	Prayer	Intercessor	Thy Kingdom Come
Table of Shewbread	Word	Bread of Life	Word in Heart

(VIDEO CLIP FOR TEXT)

Exodus 30:17-21 ¹⁷ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹⁸ Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. ¹⁹ For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: ²⁰ When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: ²¹ So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

Of all the furniture in the Tabernacle, we have the least information about the Brazen Laver; there are no specific measurements given in Scripture. The other pieces of furniture were used in reference to GOD, but the Laver was used in reference specifically to the cleansing of the PRIEST.

The sole purpose of the laver was WASHING. And where did the water come from? From the same place they got their drinking water in the wilderness – from the miraculous, smitten Rock that followed them!

Exodus 17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

1 Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

What is the lesson here? God met the Priest in that water that came from a miraculous, smitten Rock ... and cleansed him by washing!

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

1 John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

JUST LIKE THE BRAZEN ALTAR REPRESENTS REPENTANCE, THE BRAZEN LAVER REPRESENTS BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME.

No ministry could be done in the Tabernacle until the Priest had washed! Is baptism that important in our relationship with Christ? **ABSOLUTELY!**

That's why there is no such thing in the New Testament as a Christian who is not baptized in the name of Jesus.

LET'S ANSWER SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM:

- **WHO** should be baptized?
- **WHY** should I be baptized?
- **WHEN** should I be baptized?
- **HOW** should I be baptized?
- **WHAT** happens at baptism?

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- Those who have believed the Gospel and repented of their sins.

Acts 2:38, 41 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

- Those who have been baptized previously in a different way than the baptism specified by the Apostles for the NT church.

Acts 19:3-5 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- Because Jesus was baptized.

Matthew 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.

- Because salvation depends on it.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

- Because the original church did it.

Acts 10:48a And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- Right now!

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- By being immersed in water (MODE) ...

*The Greek word “**baptizo**” means “to immerse or submerge under water.” It also has the significance of washing or cleansing oneself.*

Matthew 3:16a And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water:

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

- In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (FORMULA) ...

Because every baptism in Acts was performed in Jesus' name.

- THE DAY OF PENTECOST – Acts 2:38
- THE SAMARITANS – Acts 8:16
- THE HOUSEHOLD OF CORNELIUS – Acts 10:48
- THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST – Acts 19:5
- THE APOSTLE PAUL – Acts 22:16

Because Jesus is the only name that has the power to save us.

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

WHAT HAPPENS AT BAPTISM?

- My sins are washed away or remitted, accomplishing God's full work of forgiveness.

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

- **My conscience is washed and cleansed, so I can be free from my past way of thinking.**

1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

- **My body is buried in a “grave of water,” portraying the death of my old life.**

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

- **I am born again “of the water,” portraying the birth of my new life.**

John 3:3, 5 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God ... Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

- **I am brought into God’s covenant of salvation, portraying the “cutting off” of my fleshly desires.**

Colossians 2:11-12 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

- **I take upon myself the name of Jesus Christ, which is the only saving name.**

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- **I apply the burial of Christ to my life, making it effective in me.**

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- **I show publicly that I am beginning a new life, committing myself to Christ and His church.**

Acts 2:41-42 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

WHAT HAPPENS AT BAPTISM? GOD MEETS US IN THE WATER!