

# LUKE 08 - Baptism - What is it all about?

*Luke 3:1-9 - "the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:*

*"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,*

In Luke Chapter 3 we see how the word of the Lord came to John calling him to preach a message of baptism for the forgiveness of sin in preparation for the coming of Jesus. To understand the full implication of John's message we need to understand baptism from a Biblical viewpoint.

## **Types and shadows of baptism in the Old Testament**

- **Noah's ark** - In the midst of a world changing event while displaying God's patience and cleansing, eight people are saved from God's judgement. This is described as corresponding to water baptism in 1 Peter 3:20-21 by appealing to Jesus, not to external cleansing.
- **Israel crossing the Red Sea** - God's people being set free from Egypt and saved through the Red Sea, becoming a monumental demonstration of an outrageous deliverance and destruction of enemies. This becomes an incredible picture of wiping out the old and recreating the new and is connected to baptism by Paul in 1 Cor 10:2.

In John we have a picture of the man Jesus called the greatest born of woman. We see a man who knew what he was called to do because **the word of the Lord came to him** with conviction. He described himself as the voice crying in the wilderness from Isaiah 40. Preaching with clarity and conviction because of his knowledge of God's message to His people, and the role he was called to play; preparing the way for the Lord. He did this by calling people to a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin**.

The radical statement baptism is making is that my genealogy means nothing, because it is not about being Jewish. It is not our heritage that matters, it is our faith that matters. It is a symbol of the most unbelievable deliverance that people could ever long for. Male and female means nothing, circumcised and uncircumcised means nothing, Jew and Gentile means nothing, white or black means nothing, the people of God are a people united by their faith and that is what baptism declares; not having a righteousness of my own but I am to be found in another, to be found in Him, to be found in Jesus.

**Baptism is a radical repudiation of my past and placement of my faith in God for my future!**

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Have you been baptised?

What are the pictures that shape your understanding of baptism?

- Noah's ark (salvation from judgement, cleansing)
- Red Sea rescue (release from slavery, enemies defeated)
- New Testament (death and life; new life, new family, new community, new religion)

How has the word of the Lord come to you?

- What are the passages of the scripture that God has used to speak directly to you?
- The passages that resonate with your passions, your longings, that you can't ignore?