

# What Does Water Have to Do With It?

## Introduction

### Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-39

#### 1. Man - Water = NO More Man!

**A. Water has always played a very important part in the world in which God made. “The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters...” (Genesis 1:2).**

**1 God divided the water from the dry land and left the water in the seas and rivers and streams to feed them (Genesis 1:9-10).**

**2) God left 3/4 of the earth covered in water. Water is essential to the sustaining of life. God has also used water to accomplish His spiritual purposes.**

## The Flood

- 1. The earth was filled with violence and God decided to destroy all life on the earth. He said:**

Genesis 7:4-6 For after seven more days I will **cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights**, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

- 2. God made provision for the saving of Noah and his family in the ark that He instructed Him to make. Peter said:**

1 Peter 3:20...when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, **were saved through water**.

- A. If the water caused the world of violence to be destroyed, then how did it "save" Noah and his family?**
  - 1) The water which destroyed the world, lifted the ark above it and transported Noah and his family to a cleansed and purified earth.**
  - 2) God used water to deliver Noah and his family!**

## The Red Sea

1. **When the Israelites were fleeing Egypt, they came to the Red Sea. Pharaoh and his men had decided to pursue them and there they were with water in front and a host of men coming behind. What were they to do?**

Exodus 14:21-22 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and **the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night**, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

- A. **God again delivered His people through water. Pharaoh and his army perished as the walls of water collapsed upon them.**
  - 1) **Paul reminded the Corinthians:  
1 Corinthians 10:1-2**
  - 2) **God used the water to deliver His children from certain destruction!**

## Gideon and His Three Hundred

1. **Gideon had too many men in his conflict with the Midianites. The Lord knew that if they fought with all the men that they would boast that they won because of their might, rather than because God was with them.**
  - A. **The Lord said to Gideon: “The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there” (Judges 7:4).**
    - 1) **God gave them a test to find out which ones would be allowed to fight the battle. The rest then would be sent home.**
      - a. **Began with 32,000 men. The fearful could go home. 22,000 went home and that left 10,000. Those who lap water with the tongue will remain.**
    - 2) **The result: All were sent home except for 300 men that would now oppose the Midianites (Judges 7:7).**
  - B. **And so it was that God used water as a test to decide who would fight for Him.**

## Naaman the Leper

1. **2 Kings 5 relates the story of the cleansing of the Syrian captain, Naaman.**
  - A. **He was a leper and arrived at the house of the prophet Elisha, with gifts and great expectations of great enchantments and rituals to heal him.**
    - 1) **But Elisha simply sent a servant out to him with instructions that he should go and dip seven times in the Jordan River.**
  - B. **Naaman was upset that this could be so simple!**
    - 1) **He stated that the waters of Abnah and Pharpar were better waters.**
  - C. **It was only after listening to the good advice of his servants did he resolve to do as the prophet said.**

2 Kings 5:14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

- C. **Do you suppose there were magical powers in the waters of the Jordan?**
  - 1) **No, God used the waters as a test of the willingness of this man in the position of authority to obey the instructions of the Lord's prophet.**
  - 2) **Did the water cleanse him? No, the Lord cleansed him. But He used water in His plan to do it.**

## The Baptism of John

1. **John came baptizing** “in Enon near to Salem, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized” (**John 3:23**).
2. **John preached the** “baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” (**Mark 1:4**)
  - A. **John used water. Was there repentance in the water? Did the water itself remit the sins?**
    - 1) **No, the answer is given in Luke 7:30**

Luke 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

- B. **The baptism of John, in water, for the remission of sins, was the will of God. To refuse it was to refuse that counsel.**
  - 1) **God used water to determine whether they would follow His counsel or reject it. The Pharisees and lawyers rejected it.**

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Luke 6:46 But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?

## The New Birth

### John 3:1-5

1. **Jesus told Nicodemus, “unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)**
  - A. **This birth of “water and the spirit” stands between us and the kingdom of God.**
  - B. **The Holy Spirit gave instruction through the Word of God so that all men might be saved. Peter said:**  
**1 Peter 1:22-25**
    - 1) **The Spirit’s Word leads to obedience to the truth. This is equated with being “born again....by the Word of God”, the same word which “by the gospel” is preached. James said:**

James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

2. **So then, what does water have to do with it?**
  - A. **The Spirit’s Word taught that there is water in the plan. In God’s plan to save us, there is a “washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5) This is a parallel verse to John 3:5.**
  - B. **The church is made up of those whom He did “sanctify and cleanse... with the washing of water by the word.” (Eph 5:26)**
    - 1) **The “washing of water” is baptism which is taught by the Word of God, which was revealed by the Holy Spirit. Saul of Tarsus was told to:**

Acts 22:16 “....Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord”

**2) Baptism is into the death of Christ where He shed His blood.**

Romans 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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.

**a. That is why John wrote:**

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

**3. Do you see what we have here?**

- A. We are washed from our sins in His blood when we are baptized into His death. This baptism is in water appointed by God and preached by the apostles of the Lord.**

## Conclusion

1. **Take away water baptism and you remove God's plan for bringing us into contact with the saving power of the blood, preventing the washing away of sins, cleansing, and aborting the new birth.**
  - B. **You prevent people from entering into the kingdom of God, the only way that God allowed entrance ---- You closed door!  
(ALL THOSE WHO TEACH BAPTISM IS NOT NECESSARY)**
2. **Does the water save? No, God does that, but don't forget that God used water in His plan.**
  - A. **By the water, He knows who is obedient to His Word and who are like the Pharisees and simply reject His counsel.**
3. **Does water stand between you and deliverance, cleansing, healing from sin, and the new birth into the kingdom?**
  - A. **If so, then you ought to submit to what the Lord has required for YOU to do in order to be washed clean of your sins and to be saved!**

