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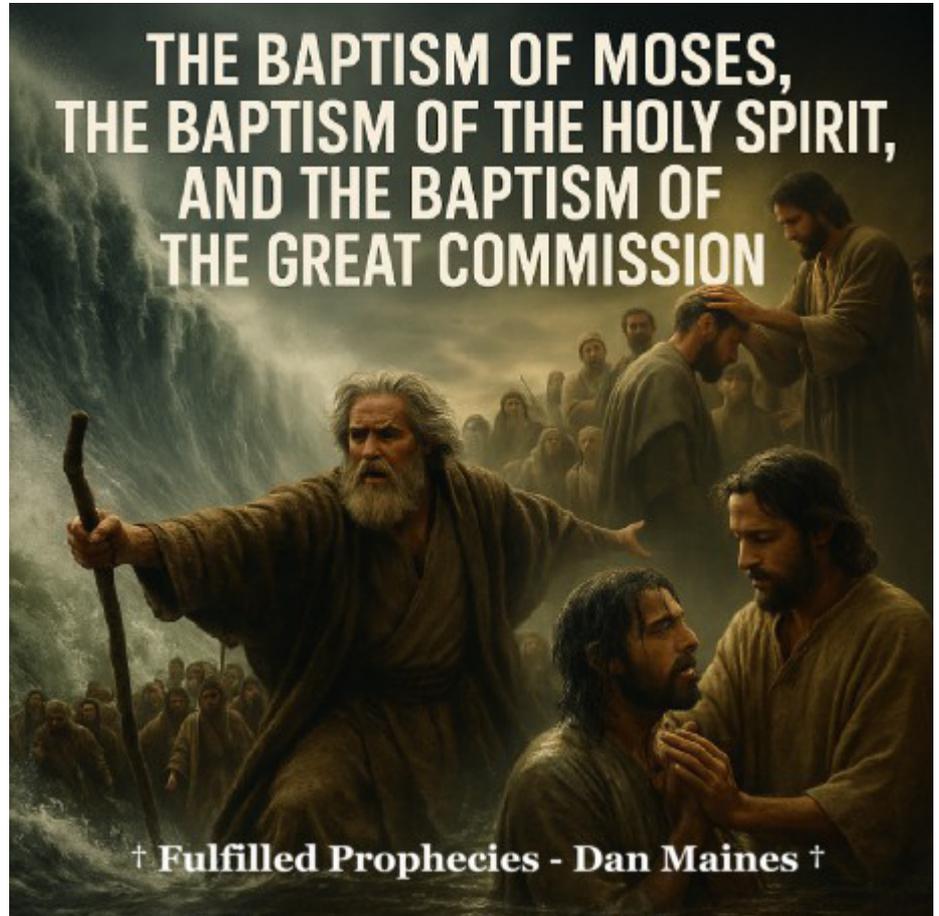
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**Baptism - The
Baptism Of Moses,
The Baptism Of
The Holy Spirit,
And The Baptism
Of The Great
Commission**



By Dan Maines

**The Baptism Of Moses, The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit,
And The Baptism Of The Great Commission**

Introduction

† Baptism in scripture is never a random ritual. Each major baptism represents a covenantal transition, a passing through judgment into a new life with God. From Moses leading Israel through the sea, to Christ baptizing His church with the Spirit, to the apostles baptizing the nations under the Great Commission, each baptism marks a new covenant reality. And every one of

these baptisms reaches its fulfillment in the completed work of Christ by AD 70 when the Old Covenant world passed away and the New Covenant stood fully established.

The Baptism Of Moses

† Paul connects Israel's crossing of the Red Sea with baptism. It wasn't a water ritual they performed, it was a covenantal transition God performed on them.

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea. And all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

† Israel passed through waters of judgment, leaving Egypt behind and entering a covenant relationship through Moses. This baptism wasn't about getting wet. It was about deliverance, separation, and covenant identity. It was God bringing His people through death into life.

† Baptism represents passing from the old creation into the new creation. Israel passed through the waters of the Red Sea, and we pass through the waters of baptism. Both point to God bringing His people into a new world. The early believers entered the new creation as the old world was ending. Today we enter that same world through baptism.

The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

† John the Baptist declared plainly that Jesus would bring a greater baptism.

Matthew 3:11

As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove

His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

† This is the baptism that defines the New Covenant. It's the outpouring of God's presence, the giving of His life, the sealing of His people, and the empowerment to be witnesses.

Acts 1:5

For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

† Acts 2 records this fulfillment at Pentecost, the dawn of the New Covenant age. This baptism equipped the early church to proclaim the kingdom that was arriving in fullness before the end of that first century generation.

† By AD 70, Christ had fully judged the Old Covenant system, removed the temple, and established His new creation kingdom where His Spirit dwells in His people.

† John's baptism was a final call to repentance for Israel before judgment fell on the Old Covenant world. Christ's baptism brought the Spirit and the new creation. John's baptism belonged to the fading age, but Spirit baptism belongs to the age that cannot end.

The Baptism Of The Great Commission

† Jesus tied baptism to discipleship, teaching, and the spread of the fulfilled kingdom to all nations.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. And behold, I am with you

always, even to the end of the age.

† Notice two things:

† The Great Commission baptism isn't about ritual alone. It's about bringing people into covenant relationship with the Father, Son, and Spirit.

† And Jesus ties this mission directly to the end of the age, the same age He said would end within their generation. The apostles carried the gospel to the nations before the destruction of Jerusalem, fulfilling Colossians 1:23 which says the gospel had been proclaimed in all creation under heaven.

† Baptism in the Great Commission is the outward sign of entering the fulfilled kingdom Christ established.

† Under the Old Covenant, circumcision marked covenant identity. Under the New Covenant, baptism marks covenant identity. The outward sign changed because the covenant changed. Baptism is the sign of the kingdom that was fully established when the Old Covenant system ended.

Why Baptism Matters Today

† Baptism isn't a ritual we perform to earn anything. It's a covenant declaration that we belong to Christ. In the first century it marked the transition from the Old Covenant world into the New Covenant kingdom. Today it marks our union with the finished work of Christ. We aren't baptized to get saved. We're baptized because Christ already completed redemption and we're publicly identifying with His fulfilled kingdom. It's an outward sign of an inward reality, the reality that we've entered the life He already secured.

† Baptism places us publicly inside the covenant people of God. It declares that we belong to the body Christ established and

finished. It's not an initiation into a future kingdom. It's identification with the kingdom that's already here.

Is Baptism Required

† Baptism isn't required to be saved, forgiven, resurrected, or included in Christ. Salvation was finished by Christ alone. Baptism is a covenant sign, not a covenant requirement. It doesn't add anything to what Jesus already did. It doesn't cause salvation, it doesn't activate salvation, and it doesn't complete salvation. It simply declares publicly that we belong to the kingdom that Christ already fulfilled.

† People were saved before baptism, people were saved without baptism, and Paul himself said Christ did not send him to baptize but to preach the gospel, which makes no sense if baptism was required.

† Baptism is important as a sign, but Christ alone is the substance.

What Baptism Does Not Mean

† It doesn't mean we're washed physically to change our spiritual condition. It doesn't mean we're waiting for forgiveness. It doesn't mean water itself has power. It doesn't mean we're joining a future age. Baptism doesn't add to Christ's work. It points to it. The power is not in the water. The power is in the finished work of Jesus. Baptism is our confession that the kingdom is here, judgment is finished, and resurrection life is ours through Him.

What It Means To Be Baptized Into His Death And Resurrection

Romans 6:3-5

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into

Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death. Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.

† To be baptized into His death means we die to the Old Covenant order, the body of sin, and everything Adam represented. To be baptized into His resurrection means we rise with Him into the New Covenant creation. It's not waiting for a future resurrection. It's participation in His already accomplished resurrection life. Baptism declares that the old world has passed, the new has come, and we share in His victory over death.

† Baptism symbolizes the removal of the body of death that belonged to Adam and the Old Covenant world. When we go under the water we picture that body passing away, and when we rise, we picture the resurrection life of Christ that we now share.

Why Baptism Still Has Meaning In The Fulfilled Kingdom

† Even though all prophecy is fulfilled and resurrection is complete, baptism continues because it's a sign of union with Christ's completed story. It identifies us with the people who live in the New Covenant world. It marks us as citizens of the fulfilled kingdom. It isn't pointing forward. It's pointing upward, to the reality Christ already secured. Baptism remains a visible reminder that we're joined to the risen Lord, filled with His Spirit, and living in the world He made new.

† Baptism isn't a temporary sign like tongues or prophecy. Temporary gifts confirmed the gospel during the transition period until the Old Covenant ended. Baptism continues because the New Covenant continues, and it's the sign of our

union with Christ in His completed work.

How These Baptisms Connect In Fulfillment

† The Baptism of Moses pointed to deliverance out of bondage.

† The Baptism of the Holy Spirit brought the life and power of the New Covenant.

† The Baptism of the Great Commission brought the nations into the kingdom Christ fully established by AD 70.

† Each baptism marks a transition.

Moses: From slavery to covenant nation.

Spirit: From dead Old Covenant to living New Covenant.

Commission: From Israel only to all nations.

† All three reach their full meaning in the fulfilled work of Christ.

Testimony Reflection

† Every baptism I've ever witnessed reminds me of the same truth. Christ finished everything, opened the kingdom to all, removed the Old Covenant world, and gave us resurrection life. Baptism is a visual reminder that we live in what they hoped for.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't live in the shadow. We live in the reality.

Christ's kingdom is complete.

The Spirit is present.

The nations are invited.

Baptism today is not a ritual waiting for a future age.

It's a declaration that we belong to the already established

kingdom of Christ.

† We aren't waiting to cross the sea.
We aren't waiting for the Spirit.
We aren't waiting for the age to end.
We're living in the fullness the early church longed for.

Final Encouragement

† If you've been baptized, remember what it means. You're alive with Christ. You're in His kingdom. You're part of the covenant He fulfilled. There's no waiting and nothing unfinished. Baptism is your reminder that everything God promised has already come to pass.

Historical References

† Justin Martyr describes baptism as entering the new life that Christ inaugurated.

† Irenaeus connects the Spirit's baptism to the completion of the new covenant work in Christ.

† Eusebius records the unstoppable spread of the gospel throughout the Roman world before Jerusalem fell.

† Tertullian explains baptism as entering the already established kingdom of the risen Christ.

† Josephus records the end of the Old Covenant world in AD 70, aligning with Jesus's prediction of the age ending.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Exodus 14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

† Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5; Acts 2

† Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 1:23

† Romans 6:3-5

- † Josephus, Wars 6
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2-3
- † Justin Martyr, First Apology
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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