

The gospel is the story of the Eternal One, the Alpha and the Omega, becoming our Saviour. Revelation portrays the special relationship that exists between Jesus and His people. It is "the revelation of Jesus Christ." Revelation 1:1. It is the revelation of the Anointed Saviour for Christ means "the Anointed One," and Jesus means "Saviour."

JESUS—THE ANOINTED SAVIOUR



A

Q1 **How is the sacrifice of our Saviour Jesus often portrayed in Revelation?** Revelation 5:6,12

A

Just as BAPTISM marked the beginning of our Saviour's public ministry, so it is to mark the beginning of our commitment to Him. It is not surprising, then, to find that the symbols of baptism are used in many references to believers in Revelation. In this seminar we will examine these references.

When Jesus came to the Jordan River, where John the Baptist was baptising, John declared, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29. Jesus was "anointed... with the Holy Spirit and power" (Acts 10:38) at the time of His baptism by John. (Acts 10:37.) From His birth He had been called Jesus. (Matthew 1:21.) However, the baptism of Jesus marked His anointing, and the beginning of His public ministry, as our Saviour. It was from the time of His baptism that Jesus was called the Christ by believers.

1 Believers are WASHED



Q4 **What has Jesus done for us by His death?**

A 1. Revelation 1:5

2. Revelation 5:9

3. Revelation 7:14

BELIEVERS IN THE ANOINTED SAVIOUR



Q2 **Who do believers follow? Revelation 14:4** (Compare Revelation 7:17.)

A

The reference to the robes of believers being "washed" and made "white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14) draws attention to baptism. (Read 1 Peter 3:18-22.)

Q3 **What did Jesus Christ instruct His followers to do? Mark 16:15,16** (Compare Matthew 28:19,20; John 3:5.)

Q5 **The three most important events in the life and ministry of Jesus are reflected in baptism. What are they? Romans 6:1-7**

- A 1.
2.
3.

Revelation portrays the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, His burial and His resurrection as the gospel. (Revelation 1:5,7,18. Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.) Baptism is -

- the memorial of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- the memorial of the gospel of salvation.

Through baptism we indicate that we have chosen Jesus Christ, the Anointed Saviour. Through the symbolism of baptism we identify with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection. Paul wrote, "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority... having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." Colossians 2:9,10,12.

BAPTISM IS THE MEMORIAL OF DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION. Baptism, as practiced by the first Christians, clearly portrayed the believer's identity with Christ's death, burial and resurrection, for Bible baptism is by immersion. It was the only form of baptism they knew. (See Ephesians 4:4,5.) The word baptism comes from a Greek word, which means "to immerse, to plunge into, to dip." It comes as a surprise to many to learn that the custom of sprinkling or christening is not Bible baptism. Christening did not enter the Christian Church until at least the twelfth century after the time of Christ.

Q6 **Why did Jesus, the sinless One, say it was proper for Him to be baptised?** Matthew 3:13-15

A

Q7 **How was He baptised?** Matthew 3:13-16 (See Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23; John 3:23.)

A

Baptism is a new start for it is like a death and resurrection (Romans 6:1-7) and symbolizes new birth. (John 3:3,5.) Baptism symbolizes our being WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

2 Believers are SEALED



Q8 **Who will be able to stand when Jesus returns in power and glory?** Revelation 7:1-4 (Read Revelation 6:12-7:4.)

A

Q9 **What is the seal of God?** Compare Revelation 7:3 with Revelation 14:1

A

Q10 **When do believers receive the name of the Father and the Son?** Matthew 28:19

A

Christians are people who BELONG TO GOD: Baptism is like a marriage. Paul wrote of being "married to another even to him who is raised from the dead." Romans 7:4 KJV. As with a marriage, so baptism represents entry into a new family relationship. It must be based upon faith, love and understanding if it is to be meaningful. To refuse baptism is to refuse the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Sealed believers in Jesus Christ, as His bride, have taken the name of Jesus Christ and the Father. (See Revelation 19:7,8.)

Christians are GOD'S AMBASSADORS: Jesus Christ was anointed at His baptism - anointed for ministry. The believer is also anointed and sealed by the Holy Spirit at baptism - ordained to ministry as believers. (John 3:5; Acts 22:16; Titus 3:5. Compare 2 Corinthians 1:21,22; 5:17-21; Ephesians 1:13.)



Q11 **What does the baptised believer do?**
Matthew 28:19,20

A

Q12 **What are the characteristics of sealed, or baptised, believers?** Revelation 14:12

A 1.

2.

Christians identify with the **CHARACTER OF GOD**: Just as former attachments are put aside in marriage, so the believer in Jesus Christ puts aside former attachments to sin.

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM is straightforward. It involves:

1. BELIEF IN JESUS: Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:15,16. The jailer asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptised." Acts 16:30-33. Baptism is essential. However, it holds no significance to the unbeliever or the person who is too young to understand the gospel of salvation. There is no record of infant baptism in the Bible.

2. REPENTANCE: When we are confronted with the fact that Jesus Christ died because of our sin, we ask, as did the people listening to the disciples on the day of Pentecost, "What shall we do?" Acts 2:37. The answer is, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38. The believer will choose to obey the commandments of God. The believer in Jesus Christ, who has chosen to turn from sin, will want

to be baptised by immersion according to the example and command of Jesus Christ.

Baptism symbolizes our being sealed by the Holy Spirit with the name of Jesus Christ and the Father - for baptised believers belong to God and identify with the character of God. Baptism is the time when believers are anointed by the Holy Spirit for ministry and service.

3 Believers are CLOTHED



Q13 **How are believers clothed?**

- A 1. Revelation 6:11 Martyred believers are given
2. Revelation 7:9 The great multitude wear
3. Revelation 7:13,14 The great multitude have
4. Revelation 12:1 Believers are clothed with
5. Revelation 19:7,8 The bride of the Lamb is given
6. Revelation 22:14 Those in the Holy City will have



Q14 **What symbolizes the covering of the righteousness of Christ?** Galatians 3:26,27

A

Paul admonished, "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 13:14. Christ takes away the sinner's filthy garments of sin and clothes the believer with the righteousness of His own character. (Compare Revelation 12:1; 19:7,8.) Those who wear the robe of Christ's righteousness are called saints. (Revelation 19:8.) The saints face persecution (Revelation 13:7) for they reverence God's name, (Revelation 11:18) are prayerful, (Revelation 5:8; 8:3,4) and are faithful, patient and obedient. (Revelation 12:17; 13:10; 14:12.) Their names are in the book of life. (Revelation 13:7,8; Philippians 4:3; Hebrews 12:23.) Baptism symbolizes our being CLOTHED.

LAST DAY BELIEVERS IN THE ANOINTED SAVIOUR



Q15 **Through the baptism of the Spirit what do we become?** 1 Corinthians 12:12,13,27

A

organized with appointed leaders, and times and places for worship and meetings. (See 2 Timothy 3:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; 11:18; 12:27-31; Ephesians 4:11-13; Colossians 1:18,23-28.) We become members of His body or church through baptism.

BY BAPTISM WE BECOME MEMBERS OF GOD'S CHURCH.

The church is the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:18.) In the New Testament the term "saints" is used synonymously with "church." (See Acts 9:13; Romans 15:25; 1 Corinthians 6:1,2,4; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1.) In the New Testament, the preaching of the gospel was always accompanied by baptism. (Acts 8:12,13,16,35-39; 9:17,18; 10:47,48; 16:13-15,32-34; 19:4,5; 22:14-16.) Those who were baptised became members of the church in their city whether it was Jerusalem, (Acts 2:47) Corinth, (1 Corinthians 12:12,13) or Colossae. (Colossians 3:15. Also see Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 9:31; 11:21; 16:5.) The church was



Q16 **How is God's household or church described?** 1 Timothy 3:14,15

A

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul warned that "in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." 1 Timothy 4:1. Satan's attacks upon God's last day people or the body of Jesus Christ are exposed in Revelation. (See Revelation 12:17.) To be baptised into Christ is to identify with the rest of the offspring of the woman or the church. It is to follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

my response...

When the Pharisees refused to be baptised by John they rejected God's purpose for them. (Luke 7:29,30.) Today, those who refuse baptism reject that which represents new birth and life through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They reject the sealing of the Holy Spirit which accompanies baptism. They refuse, by their denial of baptism, to be clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness and to be part of His last day people.

The study of the Word of God led the Ethiopian official to Jesus Christ and baptism. (See Acts 8:26-40.) When Paul was confronted with the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ, Ananias said, "The God of our Fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised and wash away your sins, calling on his name." Acts 22:14-16. As in the early days of the Christian church, the study of the Word of God in these last days will lead to belief in Jesus Christ, repentance of sin and baptism.



How do you think you would have responded if you had been the Ethiopian or the apostle Paul, when confronted with the decision to be baptised by water and the Holy Spirit?



How do you feel about the idea of being anointed by the Holy Spirit as an ambassador for God?

