

“A Biblical Definition of John’s Baptism”

All Scripture is KJV: Matthew 21:24-26

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ON THIS MATTER.

What is the bible's definition of John's Baptism?

There has been a lot of confusion by many Christians when it comes to understanding the baptism of John.

Many have used it to force a doctrine upon people when it does not bear witness to what they think is baptism.

- They have also taken the baptism of John and turned it into a definition of “repentance of sin” and in doing so have miss used the meaning of the word “repentance”.

I cannot assume for one minute or for second that everyone that I meet or talk to understands its true meaning.

- The true meaning has to be biblically derived from the scriptures in context to its first mention or else “your entire doctrine” of the scriptures will be off and mislead you into heresy.

So let's begin by learning some very valid scriptures.....

Matthew 21:24-26 King James Version (KJV)

²⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁵ **The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?** And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

²⁶ But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

- Jesus had also asked this same question to the Pharisees and Sadducees, about John's baptism, and even they could not answer this question.
- But the reason why they could not answer it was because they did not have the spirit of God in them.

My advice.....is simple.

1. Don't be fooled by things that sound good, and don't be fooled by what has been passed down by others as factual. After all, they have most likely just embraced things that they have also heard.

2. No.....my advice....is to study the scriptures.....to show yourself approved unto GOD.

So today.....we are going to do just that as always. We are going to look at scripture.

There are 3 things that will come up in this message.

1. That of Baptism.
2. That of Repentance.
3. That of remission of Sins.

- **John's version of Baptism.**

Matthew 3 King James Version (KJV)

¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

² And saying, **Repent ye**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

³ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

⁶ **And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.**

⁷ But when he saw many of **the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism**, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸ **Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:**

⁹ And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

¹⁰ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

¹¹ **I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I**, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:**

¹² Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

¹³ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

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

1. It was not necessary for Jesus to be baptized spiritually.
2. But it was necessary for Jesus to be identified with the baptism of John because it had been prophesied by Isaiah that this would happen. So in order for the scripture to be right it had to happen this way to show and to prove that God could foretell the future events.
3. Also John's baptism was not to save people, but merely to point to the fact that people should "turn to God for salvation".
4. The word repent here is the word turn to.
5. It does not mean repent from sin as the NIV leads you to believe.
6. The reason why John the Baptist was telling the people to repent was because the "kingdom of God was coming".
7. God was "coming to this earth"

¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

- ✓ Baptism was the sign that God had given to show that people who would do it were willing to be identified with him.
- ✓ The baptism of Jesus would be the sign to all people that this was Gods Son.
- ✓ The sign which Isaiah had been speaking of in the OT that would one day come.

¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- **The scripture in Mark for Baptism of Repentance.**

Mark 1 King James Version (KJV)

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

² As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁴ John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

1. The baptism of repentance was a sign from heaven.
2. The sign from heaven was that “everyone” should turn to God.
3. Baptism would be that sign of the those that wanted to follow God.
4. It was not a sign to forgive sins, it was a sign that if you “turned to God” your sins would be forgiven.

⁵ And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

1. They had confessed their sin. But what John does not mention here is that they had believed on Jesus.
2. If they had only confessed their sin and not believed in Jesus then they would not have been saved, nor would their sins have been forgiven.

Acts 19:4 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.

- ✓ So just repenting of your sins does not save you.
- ✓ You have to believe in Jesus, that is who and what will save you.
3. A Jehovah’s Witness can ask for forgiveness but he does not believe in Jesus, nor does the Catholic religion, nor does Mormonism and nor does Islam.
4. So unless you believe in Jesus, and that He is God, your sins shall not be forgiven even if you ask.
5. That’s why John said he only baptised with water, which was a sign to turn to Jesus. Verse 8. But that when Jesus comes he would baptise with the Holy Ghost of salvation. That’s the difference.
- 6. That’s why baptism only takes place after you have believed in Jesus.**

⁶ And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

⁷ And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

⁸ I indeed have baptized you with water: **but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.**

⁹ And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

¹⁰ And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

¹¹ And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- Paul said this.....

Acts 19:4 [Full Chapter]

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.**

- Understanding Gods word better.....

Acts 18:24-28 King James Version (KJV)

²⁴ And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

²⁵ This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake **and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.**

²⁶ And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: **whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**

²⁷ And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, **helped them much which had believed through grace:**

²⁸ For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, **shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.**

- The book of Luke also gives us another look at the Baptism of John from another perspective.

Luke 3 King James Version (KJV)

¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

² Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

³ And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

⁶ And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

⁷ Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

⁹ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

¹⁰ And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

¹¹ He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

¹² Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

¹³ And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

¹⁴ And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

¹⁵ And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

¹⁶ John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

¹⁷ Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

¹⁸ And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, being reproved by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

²⁰ Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

²² And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

- The Jews did not want to turn to God?
- That was the message John was bringing.

Luke 7:28-30 King James Version (KJV)

²⁸ For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

²⁹ And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, **justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.**

- ✓ They turned to God.

³⁰ **But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.**

- ✓ These people did not turn to God.

1. The book of Acts 1:22 is the witness of what John was reminding the people to do.
2. And that witness was that they should turn to Jesus.

- Repentance put into practice?
- The actual meaning of repentance shown here in Acts 10.

Acts 10:35-48 King James Version (KJV)

³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

³⁶ The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

³⁷ That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

³⁸ How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

⁴⁰ Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

⁴¹ Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

⁴³ To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

⁴⁴ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

⁴⁵ And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

⁴⁷ Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

- The fore runner of Jesus was John.
 1. John was not baptising with the Holy Ghost.

2. John did not forgive sins.
3. John did not baptise so that their sins could be forgiven.

But what John did do.....was.

1. He was showing that the people should turn to God.
 2. That the people should repent.... Which means turn to God and believe.
- Here was another man Apollos in the book of Acts preaching about Johns baptism.....
1. This baptism needed to put into context.
 2. Aquila and Priscilla had heard his preaching and then helped him to understand the true meaning of salvation.

Acts 18:24-28 King James Version (KJV)

²⁴ And **a certain Jew named Apollos**, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

²⁵ This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, **knowing only the baptism of John**.

²⁶ And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and **expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly**.

²⁷ And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, **helped them much which had believed through grace:**

²⁸ For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, **shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ. (from the OT)**

1. People who profess themselves to be Christians often have not even known that Jesus is God.
2. They may not have been taught that or they may not even have heard that from sermons being preached.
3. The obvious being that from the Catholic priests, or Mormons priests or Jehovah's Witness, or many such like ecumenical teachings.
4. Many people however are zealous and are wanting to hear and be exposed to the truth.
5. Many are hungry to hear the true Word of God, but have only been exposed to part of it, and maybe even to the distorted word of God.

So it is of vital importance that God's word is not taken for granted and that people are taught again regardless of what they have heard.

1. If while being taught and they hear the true word of God being preached the men are free at liberty to say “Amen” during the message.
2. But if they don't know they should listen to bear witness of that truth so that they may know.

✓ The picture of Baptism is this.....

Romans 6:3-5 King James Version (KJV)

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

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.

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....