

SEVEN BAPTISMS (#1)

Request: “During our recent study of Difficult Passages, I thought of a passage dealing with baptism of the dead. Could you do a study on it before we leave this series?”

“One of the most baffling statements found in Paul’s letters is (1 Cor.15:29). It was in a context of defending the resurrection of Jesus in particular and the resurrection of the dead in general.” (Difficult Passages by R.H.Stein, pg.364)

“One commentator has counted nearly 200 different attempted explanations of this difficult passage.” (Stein, pg.364)

Instead of studying this one baptism, I decided to study Seven Baptisms of the NT. Most of these are misunderstood and misquoted.

This study will help clear up some of this confusion regarding these Seven Baptisms.

We will study each of these Seven Baptisms by their historical setting.

1. Baptism of Moses (1 Cor.1:10:1-2)

The Israelites were identified with Moses’ faith in God’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage (Ex.3:13-14; 14:13-31; Heb.11:29).

The Greek verb for baptism is baptizo. Its basic meaning is to be identified with whatever it is immersed. It came from the dye industry and the Greek root bapto [to dip] (Rev.19:13).

2. Baptism of Noah (1 Pet.3:20-22)

Peter used the Noah’s Ark and baptism as an antitype (antitupos) (1 Pet.3:21) [corresponding to] of Christ. It identified the believer’s faith with security from divine judgment (1 Pet.3:20-21; Heb.11:7).

The water was used to teach divine judgment to the unbeliever (2 Pet.2:5) and divine security to the believers (Gen.8:18-22).

3. Baptism of John Baptist (Jn.1:22-34)

John’s baptism by water was to identify the person of Christ to Israel (Jn.1:31-34). As a result, John declared Jesus to the messianic Son of God (Jn.1:34).

Jesus refused water baptism to John (Matt.3:13-15).

4. The three baptisms of Jesus Christ, apart from John's baptism of Him were:

- **Jesus' baptism of death**
(Mark 10:38-39: [Cup]
(Luke 22:20-22) [Cross] (John 15:20-21; 2 Tim.3:12; Rom.8:35-36)
- **Jesus' baptism of Holy Spirit**
The Parakletos, Helper and Comforter.
(Matt.3:11; Jn.7:38-39; 14:25-26; 15:26-27; 16:7; Acts 1:4-5; 2:33; 11:16-17)
In Church Age, the third member of the Godhead indwells every Believer
(1 Cor.3:16; 6:19-20; 2 Cor.6:16).
- **Jesus' baptism of fire** (Matt.3:11-12; 24:36-41/ Like days of Noah/ 2 Pet.3:4-10/ Second Coming).

5. Baptism by Holy Spirit in Church Age (Col.2:11-15; 3:1-3)

Retroactive positional truth (RPT) (Rom.6:3-5; Rom.8:11) (2 Cor.5:17; Gal.3:2-3, 26-28; 1Cor.12:13).
(See additional studies from our Searchable Database of Biblical Studies under Positional Truth)

6. Baptism by Water (Disciple converts) (Matt.28:19-20; John 8:31-32; Acts 11:26; 14:21)

Church Age water baptism is a visual aid to teach the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:43-48).

Water baptism is NOT an essential step in salvation (baptismal regeneration) (John 4:2; 1 Cor.1:13-17; Matt.3:13-15)

7. Baptism for the dead (1 Cor.15:29-32)

The subject of the context of chapter 15 is the resurrection of Jesus and believers in general (1 Cor.15:20-23).

This is the only reference to it in the NT. “Most likely it means being baptized in the place of those who had died; i.e., new converts taking the place of older ones who had died.” (Ryrie Study Bible, (1 Cor.15:29)

(1 Cor.15:29) “Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who baptized for the dead (huper+abl) [in view of the dead being raised]? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?”
NIV, (Rom.6:3-5; Col.2:12)

Paul was attempting to correct false teachings on the resurrection (1 Cor.15:12).