

February 4th 2018
Three Baptisms
Matthew 3:1-12

Baptism in W_____

●John the Baptist

1. Was dressed in a way that proclaimed himself as a p_____ of God (v. 4)
 - a. Wore clothing made out of camel's h_____ (Zech 13:4)
 - b. Wore a leather b_____ around his waste (2 Kgs 1:8)
2. By preaching in the wilderness
 - a. He fulfilled the p_____ of Is 40:3 (v. 3)
 - b. Attracted just about everyone in J_____, all Judea, and those from the surrounding district (v. 5)
 - c. Breaks the _____ years of silence. God's people had not heard from a true prophet since Malachi.
3. Preached a baptism of r_____ -
 - a. He refused to baptize the religious leaders from Jerusalem (Pharisees and Sadducees) because they did not bear f_____ that demonstrated repentance (v. 8).

●Baptism in water should never be taken l_____

1. John's baptism was the forerunner to Christian baptism which Jesus commanded the c_____ to administer on those whom they make into disciples (i.e. followers of Christ) – Matt 28:19
2. Christian baptism is where a person is (Rom 6:4-6)
 - a. Declaring their repentance from s_____ ways
 - b. Declaring their t_____ in Christ
 - c. Pledging to live Jesus's w_____

Baptism in the H_____ S_____

●John the Baptist pointed people to someone g_____ than himself who would baptize in the Holy Spirit

1. This person was _____
2. John said that he was not even worthy to be His s_____ (v. 11 – removing sandals from a ruler's feet)

●What is baptism in the Holy Spirit

1. Most versions translate “with” instead of “in” the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Greek text uses a preposition that should always be translated as in unless the c_____ gives you reason to do differently
 - b. John baptized “in” water not merely “with” water. He immersed them “in” the Jordan River.
2. Jesus would immerse in the Holy Spirit

- a. Jesus taught His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to be i_____ them forever (Jn 14:16,17) – we are completely engulfed by His presence.
- b. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the J_____ first (Acts 2), Samaritans second (Acts 8), and the Gentiles last (Acts 10).
- c. After Acts 10 as soon as anyone accepted Christ, they were immersed in the Holy Spirit (I Cor 12:13 – notice the term “all”; 1 Cor 6:19)

Baptism in f_____

- Many erroneously have equated this with the “t_____ of fire” in Acts 2. The context of Matthew tells us otherwise.
 1. Verse 8-10 – right before declaring that Jesus will baptize in fire, he talks about a tree producing bad fruit
 - a. He applied this metaphor to the Pharisees and Sadducees who were not producing fruit demonstrating r_____
 - b. A bad tree is chopped down and t_____ into the fire (implying they will be thrown into the fire).
 2. Verse 12 – right after declaring that Jesus will baptize in fire, he declares that at harvest time, the wheat will be gathered into the barn, but the chaff will be burned up with a fire that never _____
 3. Therefore, baptism in fire equals the L_____ of Fire (Rev 20:15)
- Many have difficulty grasping how God can be b_____ loving and wrathful to the point of rejecting or ignoring the Scriptures that speak of His wrath.
 1. If we explain away these Scriptures as being merely metaphors, or poetic expressions, or s_____ and leave it at that, we are guilty of not trying to discover the intended meaning.
 2. If we reject these Scriptures because they do not fit our concept of God, then we are making ourselves the j_____ of Scripture.
- Jesus held the body of Scriptures up as the a_____ as to what we should believe.
 1. Matt 22:29 – He told the Sadducees who denied the existence of spirit beings and the after-life: *You are w_____ because you neither know the Scriptures nor the power of God.*
 2. Matt 22:43 – He declared David’s p_____ as authoritative because his words were in the Holy Spirit.
 3. Luke 16:31 - Jesus put a stamp of ultimate authority on the Books of M_____ and all the prophetic books in the O.T.
 4. 1 Tim 3:16 states that _____ Scripture is inspired by God.
- God’s wrath
 1. John the Baptist prophesied of the c_____ wrath (Matt 3:7)

2. The unbelieving world that witnesses the visible return of Christ will try to hide from the wrath of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the L_____ (Rev 6:16,17).

●Gehenna is used 12 times in the N.T., 11 times by Jesus.

1. Often translated as hell, but this is technically incorrect. Hell corresponds with H_____ and will end up in the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:14)

2. Gehenna is a place of unquenchable f_____ (Mk 9:43)

3. Jesus stated that we are not to be afraid of those who can kill us physically but not spiritually. Instead, we are to be afraid of God who will kill b_____ body and soul in Gehenna (Matt 10:28).

●God's obligation

1. God did NOT have to obligate Himself to love any creation

a. He did not r_____ the angels who sinned (Heb 2:16).

b. The unquenchable fire was created for the _____ and his angels (Matt 25:41).

2. God c_____ to obligate Himself to love people from every tribe, tongue, nation, and class by absorbing His wrath upon sin through Jesus's sacrifice on the cross.

a. Those who are drawn by His love will be s_____ from His wrath (1 Thess 5:9)

b. Those who reject His love will not be able to f_____ from His wrath.

3. Yet remember, God does not d_____ in anyone's destruction (Ezek 33:11)

Conclusion:

1. If you have not entrusted your life to Christ, you can only escape God's wrath through His l_____.

2. If you have entrusted your life to Christ, you should fall down on your knees in unworthiness, thanking Him for His love.