

In the Name of Jesus

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Why do we perform the baptism ceremony, invoking the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost?
2. Why do several Scripture references simply state that people were baptized in the name of Jesus?
 - a. Does this mean we should do the same for the baptismal ceremony?

II. PRIMARY EXAMPLE

1. Who were present at the baptism of Jesus? “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.” **Mark 1:9-11.**
 - a. “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.” **Luke 3:21-22.**
 - (1) This was the testimony of John the Baptist. “³² And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. ³³ And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. ³⁴ And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.” **John 1:32-34.**
 - b. Jesus was there to be baptized.
 - c. The Holy Ghost appeared in a form like a dove
 - d. The voice of the Father was heard speaking from heaven
2. What is the importance of following the example of Jesus? “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” **Mark 16:16.**

III. THREEFOLD NAME

1. What were Jesus’ parting instructions? “¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” **Matthew 28:18-20.**
 - a. How then do we administer the rite of baptism today? “**The rite of baptism is administered in the name of the Father, and of Son, and of the Holy Ghost. These three great powers of heaven pledge themselves to be the efficiency of all who submit to this ordinance, and who faithfully keep the vow they then make.** ‘As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him; rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.’ It is here that the great danger comes in. A worldly spirit and worldly practices have taken the place that Christ should have in the life. ‘For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power. . . . Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.’” **Manuscript Releases, vol. 6, p. 27:1.**
 - b. “**We are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and these three great, infinite powers are unitedly pledged to work in our behalf** if we will cooperate with them. We are buried with Christ in baptism as an emblem of His death.” **Lift Him Up, p. 109:2.**
2. What does baptism signify for the new convert? “**Those who are baptized in the threefold name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, at the very entrance of their Christian life declare publicly that they have accepted the invitation, ‘Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.’ ‘Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.’ ‘If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.’**
 - a. “Let those who received the imprint of God by baptism heed these words, remembering that upon them the Lord has placed His signature, declaring them to be His sons and daughters.” **SDA Bible Commentary,**

vol. 6, p. 1075:3, 4.

- b. "Baptism is a most solemn renunciation of the world. **Those who are baptized in the threefold name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, at the very entrance of their Christian life declare publicly that they have forsaken the service of Satan and have become members of the royal family**, children of the heavenly King. They have obeyed the command: 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean thing.' And to them is fulfilled the promise: 'I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.' 2 Corinthians 6: 17, 18." **Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 91:3.**
 - c. "Christ has shown that repentance, faith, and baptism are the steps that all must take if they would follow His example. **All who in obedience to Christ's command follow in this ordinance, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, signify that they are dead to the world.** They are buried in the likeness of Christ's death, and raised again from the water in the likeness of His resurrection. Says the apostle Paul: [Colossians 3:1-4 quoted]." **Manuscript Releases, vol. 11, p. 334:2.**
3. What is significant about the mention of the persons of the Godhead? "**The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, powers infinite and omniscient, receive those who truly enter into covenant relation with God. They are present at every baptism, to receive the candidates who have renounced the world and have received Christ into the soul temple.** These candidates have entered into the family of God, and their names are inscribed in the Lamb's book of life." **SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1075:5.**
 - a. Just as they were present at the baptism of Jesus
 - (1) The Godhead personally receives each new candidate for the kingdom of heaven
 - b. What will be done for us? "The obligations in the spiritual agreement entered into at baptism are mutual. As human beings act their part with wholehearted obedience, they have a right to pray: 'Let it be known, Lord, that Thou art God in Israel.' **The fact that you have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is an assurance that, if you will claim Their help, these powers will help you in every emergency.** The Lord will hear and answer the prayers of His sincere followers who wear Christ's yoke and learn in His school His meekness and lowliness." **Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 99:1.**

IV. JOHN'S BAPTISM

1. Who was the first on record to use the rite of baptism? "In those days came **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea." **Matthew 3:1.**
 - a. What was the purpose of his baptizing? "⁴ John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 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." **Mark 1:4-5.**
 - (1) "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." **Luke 3:2-6.**
 - b. This was known as the baptism of repentance. "When **John had first preached** before his coming **the baptism of repentance** to all the people of Israel." **Acts 13:24.**
2. What was John's message to the people? "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.**" **Matthew 3:5-11.**
 - a. Jesus would come and would baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire.
3. What did this baptism become known as? "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?" **Matthew 21:25.**

V. THE CONTROVERSY

1. What happened as Jesus' ministry began to grow? ²² After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. ²³ And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. ²⁴ For John was not yet cast into prison. ²⁵ **Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.** ²⁶ **And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.** ²⁷ John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. ²⁸ Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. ²⁹ He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. ³⁰ **He must increase, but I must decrease.**” **John 3:22-30.**
 - a. “Now he saw the tide of popularity turning away from himself to the Saviour. Day by day the crowds about him lessened. When Jesus came from Jerusalem to the region about Jordan, the people flocked to hear Him. The number of His disciples increased daily. Many came for baptism, and while Christ Himself did not baptize, He sanctioned the administration of the ordinance by His disciples. Thus He set His seal upon the mission of His forerunner. But **the disciples of John looked with jealousy upon the growing popularity of Jesus. They stood ready to criticize His work, and it was not long before they found occasion.** A question arose between them and the Jews as to whether baptism availed to cleanse the soul from sin; *they maintained that the baptism of Jesus differed essentially from that of John. Soon they were in dispute with Christ's disciples in regard to the form of words proper to use at baptism, and finally as to the right of the latter to baptize at all.*” ***The Desire of Ages, p. 178:2.***
 - (1) “John's disciples came to him with their grievances, saying, ‘Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness,¹³⁷ behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.’ John possessed the common infirmities of human nature. In this matter he was subjected to a severe trial. His influence as the prophet of God had been greater than any other man's, until the ministry of Christ commenced; but the fame of this new teacher was drawing the attention of all people, and in consequence, the popularity of John was waning. His disciples brought to him the true statement of the case, Jesus baptizeth, and all men come to him.” ***Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 2, p. 136:4.***
 - b. What exactly was this controversy over the wording when performing baptisms? **“The prejudice of the Jews was aroused because the disciples of Jesus did not use the exact words of John in the rite of baptism. John baptized unto repentance, but the disciples of Jesus, on profession of the faith, baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** The teachings of John were in perfect harmony with those of Jesus, yet his disciples became jealous for fear his influence was diminishing. **A dispute arose between them and the disciples of Jesus in regard to the form of words proper to use at baptism, and finally as to the right of the latter to baptize at all.**” ***Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 2, p. 136:3.***
2. What did Jesus do in response to this situation? ¹ When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, ² (Though **Jesus himself baptized not**, but his disciples,) ³ He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.” **John 4:1-3.**
 - a. “The news that had been carried to John concerning the success of Jesus, was also borne to Jerusalem, and there created against him jealousy, envy, and hatred. Jesus knew the hard hearts and darkened minds of the Pharisees, and that they would spare no pains to create a division between his own disciples and those of John that would greatly injure the work, so **he quietly ceased to baptize and withdrew to Galilee.** He knew that the storm was gathering which was soon to sweep away the noblest prophet God had ever given to the world. **He wished to avoid all division of feeling in the great work before him, and, for the time, removed from that region for the purpose of allaying all excitement detrimental to the cause of God.**” ***Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 2, p. 139:1.***
3. Was there any benefit to disputing this point? “The disciples of John had declared that all men were coming to Christ; but with clearer insight, John said, ‘No man receiveth His witness;’ so few were ready to accept Him as the Saviour from sin. But ‘he that hath received His witness hath set his seal to this, that God is true.’ John 3:33, R. V. ‘He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.’ **No need of disputation as to whether Christ's baptism or John's purified from sin. It is the grace of Christ that gives life to the soul. Apart from Christ, baptism, like any other service, is a worthless form.** ‘He that believeth not the Son shall not see life.’” ***The Desire of Ages, p. 181:2.***

VI. LATER PRACTICE

1. Do we know that Jesus' disciples still practiced this form after His ascension? ¹ And it came to pass, that,

while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ² He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost** since ye believed? And they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.** ³ And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, **Unto John's baptism.** 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.** ⁵ *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."* **Acts 19:1-5.**

- a. These were certain disciples
 - (1) They had been baptized by John
 - (a) Or, John's baptism
 - (2) "Repentance for the remission of sins"
 - b. They had not heard of the Holy Ghost
 - (1) Paul's question indicates that they should have
 - (a) When they were baptized
 - (b) If they were baptized in the name of Jesus
 - (i) Or Jesus' baptism
 - (ii) Which would have mentioned the existence of the Holy Spirit
 - c. They were instructed about Jesus
 - (1) Then RE-baptized in the name of Jesus
 - (a) Or, Jesus' baptism
 - (2) What was the method that Jesus instructed?
 - (a) "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (**Matthew 28:19**)
 - d. "On his arrival at Ephesus, **Paul found twelve brethren, who, like Apollos, had been disciples of John the Baptist, and like him had gained some knowledge of the mission of Christ.** They had not the ability of Apollos, but with the same sincerity and faith they were seeking to spread abroad the knowledge they had received.
 - (1) "**These brethren knew nothing of the mission of the Holy Spirit. When asked by Paul if they had received the Holy Ghost, they answered, 'We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.' 'Unto what then were ye baptized?' Paul inquired, and they said, 'Unto John's baptism.'**
 - (2) "**Then the apostle set before them the great truths that are the foundation of the Christian's hope.** He told them of Christ's life on this earth and of His cruel death of shame. He told them how the Lord of life had broken the barriers of the tomb and risen triumphant over death. **He repeated the Saviour's commission to His disciples:** 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**' Matthew 28:18, 19. **He told them also of Christ's promise to send the Comforter,** through whose power mighty signs and ²⁸³ wonders would be wrought, and **he described how gloriously this promise had been fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.**
 - (3) "With deep interest and grateful, wondering joy the brethren listened to Paul's words. **By faith they grasped the wonderful truth of Christ's atoning sacrifice and received Him as their Redeemer. They were then baptized in the name of Jesus, and as Paul 'laid his hands upon them,' they received also the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by which they were enabled to speak the languages of other nations and to prophesy.** Thus they were qualified to labor as missionaries in Ephesus and its vicinity and also to go forth to proclaim the gospel in Asia Minor." **Acts of the Apostles, p. 282:1-283:1.**
2. What was the normal practice of ordained apostles at that time? "I saw that this door at which the enemy comes in to perplex and trouble the flock can be shut. I inquired of the angel how it could be closed. He said, 'The church must flee to God's Word and become established upon gospel order, which has been overlooked and neglected.' This is indispensably necessary in order to bring the church into the unity of the faith. **I saw that in the apostles' day** the church was in danger of being deceived and imposed upon by false teachers. Therefore **the brethren chose men who had given good evidence that they were capable of ruling well** ¹⁰¹ **their own house and preserving order in their own families, and who could enlighten those who were in darkness.** Inquiry was made of God concerning these, and then, according to the mind of the church and the Holy Ghost, they were set apart by the laying on of hands. **Having received their commission from God and having the approbation of the church, they went forth baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and administering the ordinances of the Lord's house,** often waiting upon the saints by presenting them the emblems of the broken body and spilt blood of the crucified Saviour, to keep fresh in the memory of God's beloved children His sufferings and death." **Early Writings, p. 100:2.**

VII. IN THE NAME OF JESUS

1. What does it mean to be baptized in the name of Jesus?
 - a. Preparation for the heavenly garner. 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.” **Luke 3:15-17.**
 - b. New life. 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.” **Romans 6:3, 4.**
 - (1) It is also a symbol of dying with Him to the old way. “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” **Colossians 2:12.**
 - c. By one Spirit. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” **1 Corinthians 12:13.**
 - (1) He takes over. “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” **Galatians 3:27.**
 - (2) This is important to our salvation. “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” **1 Peter 3:21.**
2. Therefore what was the focus of the preaching and baptizing of the apostles? “But when **they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.**” **Acts 8:12.**
 - a. ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” **Acts 2:37-38.**
 - b. ¹⁴ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵ Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶ (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷ Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” **Acts 8:14-17.**
 - c. ³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” **Acts 8:36-38.**
 - d. 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.” **Acts 10:45-48.**
 - e. This was the same for their miracles. “Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” **Acts 3:6.**
3. What was important about being baptized in *Jesus’* name? ¹² Now this I say, that **every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.** ¹³ **Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?** ¹⁴ **I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;** ¹⁵ **Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.** ¹⁶ And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷ **For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel:** not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.” **1 Corinthians 1:12-17.**
 - a. Our relationship is with God, and we are one body in Christ. ⁴ There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” **Ephesians 4:4-6.**

VIII. CONCLUSION

1. The words of the rite of baptism include mention of the Godhead by name
 - a. This is an important part of the service
 - (1) to recognize the presence of God and the help He is ready to give us
2. There is more to it than this
 - a. Baptism into Christ represents a new life
 - b. It means to be born again a child of the King
 - (1) With new motives and actions
 - (2) A changed heart
3. Will you live today as a child of Jesus?