

BAPTISM GUIDE

What is God up to in the world?

Genesis 1:1-2 ESV

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

1. _____ — In the Hebrew, tohu
2. _____ — In the Hebrew, shalom

God's desire from the beginning has always been to move the world from chaos to order.

And He has invited us to be _____ .

Jesus continued to build on this idea. He called it the _____ .

Matthew 4:23 NIV

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Matthew 9:35 NIV

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

Mark 1:14-15 NIV

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"



Luke 4:42–43 NIV

At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.”

Luke 8:1 NIV

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him.

Luke 16:16 NIV

The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

What does it mean to live in the Kingdom of God?

Living in the Kingdom of God is a partnership between God and man that works to redeem the world.

When we partner with God we have _____.

When we work against God’s agenda for the world, we interrupt peace. That always leads to _____.

How do we join the Kingdom of God? (Salvation)

We hope, the idea of partnering with God through Jesus to restore peace in the world is a very appealing idea. The question is, how do I get started? Through the years, the church has had all kinds of terms to describe this — getting saved, being born again, giving your life to Christ. All are fine to describe what God is doing.



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At the core of salvation are two beliefs:

1. A _____ in _____ as Savior
2. A _____ in _____ as LORD

It is not only about getting out of hell or going to heaven. There is a tangible, present reality of what it means to take residency in the Kingdom of God.

What is a Christian?

In Jesus's words:

[Matthew 4:19 NASB](#)

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

When the first church preached the good news, what did people do?

[Acts 2:37-39 NIV](#)

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, 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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."



The Breakdown of Acts 2:37–38

v. 37—They _____ *the message (“pierced to the heart”).*

John 3:16 NIV

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Romans 4:3 NIV

What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

v. 38—They were told to _____ *(a natural result of faith).*

2 Corinthians 7:8–11 NIV

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.”

v. 38—They _____ *Jesus as their Lord (visible at their baptism, a natural result of faith).*

Romans 10:9–10 NIV

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.



v. 38—They were commanded to be _____ (an act of obedience, a natural result of faith). See Acts 16:29–34; 18:24–26; 19:1–5; 22:16.

Acts 8:35–39 NIV

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

What is Baptism?

At Salt City Underground Church, we recognize that throughout the history of the church, people have landed all over the map on this issue. And every side has a particular biblical and historical interpretation of where to land on the issue of baptism and why. This section is here to help you understand where we stand as a church and how we got there.

The Greek word is baptizo, which means to be _____, to be buried in, to be sunken as a ship, to dip, to be put under. The Bible does speak of a spiritual baptism; this is God’s part. Our part is the physical baptism in water by immersion.



Why should I be baptized?

1. To _____ *the example set by Christ*

Mark 1:9 NIV

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

2. *Because Christ and the Apostles* _____ *it.*

Matthew 28:18–20 NIV

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Acts 2:38 NIV

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, 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.”

3. *Because the early church believed it was* _____ .

(Note: We do not necessarily agree with them pertaining to what baptism actually accomplishes.)

“This work is variously called grace, illumination, and perfection, and washing. Washing, by which we cleanse away our sins. Grace, by which the penalties of our sins are canceled. And illumination, by which that holy light of salvations is beheld.” –Clement of Alexandria, 1st Century



“As we are lepers in sin, we are made clean from our old transgressions by means of the sacred water and the invocation of the Lord. We are thus spiritually regenerated as newborn infants, even as the Lord has declared: Except a man be born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” –Irenaeus, AD 110

“In order that we obtain in water the remission of sins.” –Justin Martyr, AD 133, referring to John 3:3–5

“It has assuredly been ordained that no one can attain knowledge of salvation without baptism.” –Tertullian, AD 160

Even the reformers agreed that baptism was commanded. “It is most solemnly commanded that we must be baptized or we cannot be saved.” –Martin Luther, *Moody Handbook of Theology*, pg. 453

“By baptism we are admitted into the church, and consequently made members of Christ, its Head. ... By water then, as a means, the water of baptism, we are regenerated or born again.” –John Wesley, “A Treatise on Baptism”

4. Baptism has a great deal of spiritual significance. It is a picture of Christ’s _____ and _____ .

Romans 6:4 NIV

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Colossians 2:12 NIV

... 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.

It is a picture of a _____ a starting point.

John 3:3-5 NIV

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

5. So that the church has a _____ message.

1 Corinthians 1:10 NIV

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

Who should be baptized?

Those who have _____ and _____ .

Mark 16: 15-16 NIV

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

At Salt City Underground Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. A baby or a young child ^{prior to the age of accountability} cannot understand sin or the need for Christ. It must be their decision and it must be accompanied by faith and repentance.

