

# Baptism of Christ

The Significance of Christ's Baptism and its Mode (In question and answer)

Why was Christ Baptized?

Q. Was there a church of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament dispensation as well as in the New testament dispensation?

A. Yes. Acts 7:38. Heb. 11. Job 19:25. John 8:56.

Q. In what dispensation did Christ live? In the Old Testament or the New testament dispensation?

A. He lived in the Old Testament dispensation. There was no New Testament dispensation until after Christ was crucified. Mt. 27:50-51. Heb. 9:7-8, 16-17. Mark 15:28, 37-38. Heb. 10:7-9.

Q. Since Christ lived in the Old Testament dispensation until after His death on the cross, did He fulfill Old Testament or New Testament law?

A. He fulfilled Old Testament law. There was no New Testament law to fulfill. Heb. 9:7-8, 16-17. Mt. 5:17-18. John 19:28-30.

Q. What evidence do we have that Christ fulfilled the Old Testament law?

A. (1) He was put into the Old Testament Church at eight days old. Lev. 12:3. Luke 2:21.

(2) He was presented in the Temple at forty days of age. Lev. 12:3-4, 7. Luke 2:22-23.

(3) He went up to the Temple at twelve years of age, complying with the law that required all Jewish male children to attend the feasts three times a year. Ex. 34:23. Ex. 23:17. Luke 2:42.

(4) At the age of thirty He came to fulfill all righteousness and for that reason He demanded of John that he baptize Him. Num. 4:3. Luke 3:21-23. Mt. 3:13-15

Q. What is righteousness?

A. Righteousness is uprightness before existing law. It is fulfilling law. Deut. 6:25.

Q. Was there at that time, a New Testament law that required a Jew to be baptized at thirty years of age?

A. No. There was no New Testament law then. Christ had not died at that time. Heb. 9:16-17.

Q. Was there a law in the Old Testament that required a Jew, because he was a Jew, to be baptized at thirty years of age?

A. No. There is no record of it in the Bible.

Q. Was there a law in the Old Testament that required a Jew to be thirty years old before he could publicly minister in holy things?

A. Yes. Num. 4:2-4, 35, 39, 47. Num. 16:8-9. Num. 8:14-15, 21-22.

Q. Was Christ to publicly minister in holy things?

A. Yes. Mt. 20:28. Mark 10:45. Heb. 3:1. Heb. 9:11. Rom. 15:8.

Q. How old was Christ when He was baptized?

A. Thirty years old. Luke 3:23.

Q. Was there a law that required Christ to be baptized at thirty years of age?

A. Yes. He said: "It becometh us to fulfill all righteousness" -- Righteousness is fulfilling existing law. Mt.; 3:15. Deut. 6:25.

Q. What was the law that required Christ to be baptized at thirty years of age?

A. It was the law of public ministry in holy things. This is the only law of the kind in the Old Testament, and there was no New testament until after Christ's death. Num. 4:3-4, 35, 47. Heb. 9:15-17.

Q. Why, of all the thousands whom John baptized, is the age of Christ the only age given?

A. It is to show that Christ's baptism was to His holy ministry and therefore an official baptism and not to repentance as in the case of the other baptisms.

Q. Was the induction of Christ into His holy ministry different from others who were inducted into this holy public ministry?

A. No. Not in the essentials.

(1) A priest must perform the baptism of persons being inducted into this holy ministry. (Lev. 16:32-34). John the Baptist was a priest, inheriting his office from his father who was a priest. Num. 8:21-22. Luke 1:5.

(2) The person being inducted into this holy office must be thirty years old. (Num 4:3, 35, 39, 47.) Christ was just thirty years old at this time. Luke 3:23.

(3) The person must be set apart to this holy office by baptism. (Num. 8:7). Christ was thus set apart. Mark 1:9. Mt. 3:13-15.

Q. Could anyone lawfully perform the duties of the holy ministry until he had been baptized?

A. No. Num. 8:7, 14-15, 21-22.

The Mode of Christ's Baptism

Q. What mode of baptism had God commanded for inducting one into this holy office?

A. Sprinkling. Num. 8:7

Q. Since Christ was being inducted into his holy ministry, what mode of baptism must have been used?

A. Evidently it was sprinkling. Num. 8:7.

Q. If Christ had been baptized by immersion would He have broken God's appointed law of baptism for His ministers?

A. Yes. The Bible says the baptism of the person being inducted into this holy ministry was to be by sprinkling. (Num. 8:7). And Christ says He was fulfilling righteousness -- existing law. Mt. 3:13-15. Christ must therefore have been baptized by sprinkling.

The Fallacies of the teachings in Regard to Christ's and John's Baptism Revealed

Q. When Christ was baptized was He joining the church?

A. No. He was already a member of the Old Testament church, and there was no New Testament church then for Him to join. Luke 2:21-24. Luke 3:23. Heb 9:16-17.

Q. Why was Christ baptized if He was not joining the church?

A. It was to induct Him into His holy public ministry. He was thirty years old. Num. 4:3-4. Num. 8:6-7, 11, 13-15. Luke 3:23.

Was John's Baptism New Testament Church Baptism?

Q. Can we have New Testament church baptism without it being in the name of the Holy Ghost?

A. No. Mt. 28:19

Q. Was John's baptism New Testament church baptism?

A. No. (1) Because it had no Holy Ghost in it.

(2) Because Paul who knew what Christ had done and taught would not receive it and had John's disciples rebaptized.

(3) Paul also had John's disciples baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:1-5.

Q What then was John's baptism and its mode since it was not New Testament church baptism?

A. Evidently it was the Jewish mode of baptism.

Q. Did the Jews have any mode of baptism except sprinkling?

A. Not so far as the Bible record goes.

Q. What then was the evident mode of John's baptism?

A. Evidently it was sprinkling. Num. 8:7

Q. If we practice John's mode of baptism today what mode must we use?

A. Certainly it is sprinkling.

Q. Why did John and Christ go to the Jordon for the baptism of Christ, if Christ was not immersed?

A. Because the law required that running water be used in baptizing any one into this holy ministry. The Jordon was running water. Num. 8:7; 19:17.

By Rev. C. Z. Berryhill (circa 1900 PCUS Tract)