

## Episode #706 Baptism 1-One Lord, One Faith, Four Baptisms?

I. We are taking a break from our studies of the book of Matthew to consider the very important topic of baptism brought up by John's baptism in Matthew 3.

II. Last time we saw that John's baptism was in the Jordan river, performed by John, a man who was a priest of Levi and Aaron. It was connected to repentance, which we have seen means after-mindedness or submission, and John would not baptize anyone who was not truly submissive, like, the hypocritical religious leaders. The people confessed their sins when they were baptized, and Luke connects baptism with the forgiveness of sins. We suggested this was the national forgiveness of Israel's sins, however,

III. The Lord Jesus on John's Baptism: Matthew 21:23-27, Mark 11:27-33, Luke 20:1-8.

A. "The Baptism of John." Some try to make it out as a Levitical washing of the Old Testament. This proves it was not so!

B. Ezekiel 36:24-27. Is this John's baptism? No, for it contains a time element, "THEN." Also, the Lord Himself does the sprinkling.

IV. The purpose of John's baptism.

A. John 1:19-31. The purpose of John: to reveal Christ to Israel. This was his chief, if not sole purpose. Human reasons must fall before it! Romans 15:8.

B. 2,500,000 Israelites in the land. Israel's lost sheep, Matthew 15:24. He was to prepare these. Luke 1:17.

C. John called on them to submit in light of the kingdom of God. Matthew 3:2, 19:23-24. This baptism was their first act of submission toward that kingdom. From then on, they were under great responsibility to submit further! A swearing in.

1. Isaiah 1:4. Israel was constantly rebelling. Submission was needed.

2. Luke 7:29-30. John's baptism worked!

D. We all need submission. II Timothy 2:24-26. This is to acknowledging of the truth. We need this, but we do not get it by a water ritual, but an attitude of heart.

V. The Lord Jesus' Baptism.

A. Matthew 3:13-17. It is constantly asked why He needed to be baptized?

1. The Lord was identified by birth and circumcision with the nation of Israel. Now, He would be identified with the submissive company in Israel. Hebrews 10:7,9. This fulfilled all righteousness. Matthew 3:15.

2. Many make much of "following Christ in baptism." Why not follow Him in circumcision (Luke 2:21), in keeping the Saturday Sabbath at the synagogue (Luke 4:16), keeping the feast of Passover (Luke 2:41, 22:15), and keeping Moses' law (Matthew 8:4)?

B. Luke 12:50. The Lord had another baptism to be baptized with. Not water!

C. Matthew 20:22-23, Mark 10:38-39. Has to do with the cup of wrath and the baptism of death!

VI. Two More Baptisms.

A. Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:15-16. Baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Note: does not mean immersion! Who would wish to be immersed in fire? Does not mean sprinkling! Who would want to be sprinkled with fire?

B. Spirit baptism. Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33, Acts 1:5, Acts 11:16, I Corinthians 12:13. "Spirit" without "the," indicates the power of the Spirit. Luke 24:49.

C. Fire baptism. Acts 2:3. Has to do with marking out for leadership. Isaiah 4:5-6. Has to do with leadership in Israel in the kingdom.

VII. One Last Baptism: we are baptized into Christ.

A. Romans 6:3. We are identified with Christ's death on the cross. This is a baptism!  
Romans 6:6,8.

B. Galatians 3:27. When baptized into Christ, we put on Christ. Galatians 2:20.

VIII. Ephesians 4:3-6 presents the unity of the Spirit. One of those unities is "one baptism." In the light of the fact that Scripture names four, which is the "one"?

A. John's baptism in the Jordan?

B. Spirit and fire baptism at Pentecost?

C. Baptism into Christ's death at the cross?

IX. Conclusion: The baptism introduced by John was connected with Israel and their submission to the kingdom of God to come. Paul tells us in Ephesians that there is one baptism. Which is the greatest baptism? Is there a greater baptism than that of John? Job 34:3. For the ear tests words  
As the palate tastes food. We will test the Lord's words on baptism.