

Message# 184 - 4-10-2022 - Christians Believe that Jesus Fulfilled the Prophets - H2O Water Baptism Ended with the Old Covenant

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for taking the time to listen to the message this morning.

We had a great week of responses from the messages. I'm encouraged, I'm excited to be getting the feedback that's coming in.

It's been interesting to me how many of you have been questioning this for - some of you for many years. And to see the pieces come together - that's pretty neat. I have very little push back - hardly any really - there were two men that wrote to me early on - and of course - we know of some other push back - but something that is really interesting to me is that people who know the fallacy of "church" and quit playing that at some point - and people that are living in the Kingdom of God right now - trying to live as exclusive citizens of the Kingdom of God - or the Commonwealth of Israel - they get this understanding - that baptism in the New Covenant world - is being truly immersed into Christ - well - listen to this, this is typical of what's been coming in lately:

Your baptism messages have been a welcome eye opener for me. I've generally held the view that H2O immersion was a necessary and expected acknowledgement of relationship with Christ. Like many I made arrangements and performed it. But I've never taken salvation for granted, and I think therein lies the problem for many; thinking that performing a ritual cleansing equals salvation, while ignoring the true baptism of immersion in Christ.

What I appreciate about your messages is the thorough examination of Scripture and digging into the root meanings of words, thus dispelling commonly held myths propagated by the church. I especially appreciate referencing the "old testament" since that was the Scripture that Yeshua was using to teach. I also happen to believe they were using more than what is recognized as "canon", but that's another topic.

And he very well might be onto something there.

Teresa and I were talking this week about this subject again. Most of you know Teresa's testimony regarding her conversion to Christ. Thirty three years ago this summer, after around 3 months or so of constant Bible studies - I've told you before - sometimes

many hours at a time - after months of Bible studies - learning about the Bible, learning about the Kingdom, learning about the Laws of God, learning about what it means to be a follower of Christ - at the end of those months of Bible study - she just completely broke - let me back up a little - towards the end of when she finally gave in - for a couple weeks or so - we'd be having Bible studies - and she'd be asking questions - and we'd open the Scriptures for the answers - she would get overwhelmed with what *I knew* to be the convicting power of the Holy Spirit - and she would resist - she would literally push the Bible back across the table - and say - "I need a break, I can't take anymore - I don't know what's happening to me."

After this went on for a little while - I began to explain to her - not in my words - but for instance - take your Bibles please and turn to the book of Hebrews. Let's look at a verse of Scripture we've seen a thousand times - Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12. This is what was happening to Teresa after HER seeking - I was leading - yes - but she was seeking - and as a result of her seeking - this is what was happening:

[12] For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Her being led through the Scriptures to get answers to her life's questions - was resulting in the power of the Word of God overcoming her and convicting her of her need to come to Christ.

With each time toward the end - she would resist and then go home - I was concerned that I might not see her again. But then she'd always call first thing in the morning and want me to go over those passages of Scripture again. And I would. Then, we'd get together again - and the marathon Bible studies would happen.

Finally, she just burst into tears and said - "What is going on with me? Why is this happening every time we study?" When I explained to her that what was happening to her was the power of the Word of God calling her to Christ - when she realized that was exactly what was happening (I told her, this is not something that was happening because of something she was doing - it was the Word of God working on her) - she finally gave in and yielded her life to Christ. And, I'm telling you at that very instant - I saw someone become a new creation in Christ and it was the most amazing thing I have ever seen in my entire life.

It saddens me to see and hear from so many men and women that their spouses are just not on the same page as it relates to the Bible and it causes so many marital issues.

But with Teresa and I, it just has not been that way. On every single important issue in life - we have been in agreement for the nearly 33 years we've been married. That is the result of a commitment to yield to the Scriptures as being the final Authority in everything we do.

Again, sadly, for those I have heard from for so many years - spouses that can't get along - almost always - one of them wants to follow the Scriptures - and the other wants to follow something called "church." I've seen it over and over and over.

When I was leading Teresa to Christ - it was not my words - she got every answer she was looking for - from the Bible. Teresa was a changed woman.

I have not believed in H2O water baptism in the New Covenant for many years - at least for the 33 years since I've known her - but definitely longer than that. But as we were talking about baptism the other day - she said - "If someone came into your life - could they spend a little bit of time with you - and conclude - 'this person is a follower of Christ?' Could someone make that determination based upon the way you live your life - or - does someone need to see your 'baptismal certificate' hanging on the wall before they would say, "Yes, this person is a follower of Christ"?"

If someone came into your life and saw you living as a follower of Christ, then at some point asked to see your "baptismal certificate" - if you failed to produce one - would you then be deemed a "non-Christian?"

Teresa and I and my children and the rest of those who we have led to Christ through the years - are not H2O water baptized - for one reason - it is not Biblical to require H2O water pourings, sprinklings or immersions in the New Covenant. The works of the Law - which is exactly what H2O water pourings, sprinklings and immersions are - were concluded when the Old Covenant ended.

The water purifying rituals - were equally as important under the Old Covenant as were the blood sacrifices - you couldn't perform one without the other. And when the Old Covenant ended - the blood sacrifice rituals - and the accompanying water rituals - came to a halt.

The physical blood aspects of the Old Covenant sacrificial system - pointed to the physical blood of Christ that was shed to end the Old Covenant sacrifices. The water - the physical water aspects of the Old Covenant sacrificial system - pointed to the cleansing power of the Word - the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us - the many times water is referred to in the first 39 books - it was a symbol of being purified - of being made clean - and it pointed to the cleansing power of the Word - and the cleansing power of the finished work of the Messiah.

I received a really nice email from Paul this week. Paul is the one who's music I've been playing lately. I love it. It's awesome music. And I've heard from so many of you who have said they are enjoying his music as well.

But he was excited that he felt like his music was going hand-in-hand with the messages. I wrote back to him and told him I wasn't surprised at all. Not one bit. When two people are viewing Scripture from the same perspective - Fulfilled Bible Prophecy - resulting in the conclusion that the Kingdom of God is right now - the Commonwealth of Israel is right now - and it is the responsibility of every living breathing creature to conform to His Kingdom right now - it is no great thing - that one who writes music - or one who preaches the Word - would not be in agreement. I would expect nothing less.

Our dear brothers and sisters in Christ from the Philippines - who are trying to live the Kingdom of God right now - and in many ways are faced with greater hardships than any of us - I wrote to Joan a couple weeks ago asking her what she and others were thinking about this current baptism series. The Philippines has a deep history of catholicism so I was wondering what her thoughts were. She responded that they had concluded about 6 years ago that H2O water baptism was done away with. Again - I was not the least bit surprised when I heard that.

I have heard from quite a few people now that are saying they are getting it. It is answering questions they've had, it is explaining a lot of things and putting puzzle pieces together.

I was talking with Sam this week and I didn't laugh when he was telling me this - because to him it wasn't funny - as in ha ha funny - but the way he said it to me - from his voice to my ears - made me hold in a laugh. We were talking about the meaning of Jesus turning the H2O baptismal waters into wine - and he said, "Yeah, I got that, that was really easy." To me, Sam, that was priceless hearing you say what you said - or at least the way I heard you say it. "That it was really easy understand?"

Why did Jesus turn the water into wine? Is it eisogesis to take the whole story in context with everything else regarding the water purification ritual and conclude that He changed the physical H₂O water into wine - as being symbolic of Him changing the Old Covenant physical water that was absolutely used for the purification from sin - then changing that to wine as being symbolic of Him pointing to what would someday happen to Him on execution day? Look at it again, please. Let's make a few more observations before we go on. And, before moving directly to John 2 - go to John 1 again, please. What was one of the main subjects of John chapter 1? Before we look at John 2 again, let's read John 1 beginning in verse 1, and among the many things that were important in John 1, we are going to see the importance of water baptism in John 1:

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

[2] The same was in the beginning with God.

[3] All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

[4] In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

[5] And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

[6] There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

[7] The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

[8] He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

[9] That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

[10] He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not.

[11] He came unto his own, and his own received Him not.

[12] But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:

[13] Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

[14] And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

[15] John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was He of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for He was before me.

[16] And of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

[17] For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

[18] No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the

bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.

[19] And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

[20] And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

[21] And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

[22] Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

[23] He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

[24] And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

[25] And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

[26] John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

[27] He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

[28] These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

[29] The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

[30] This is He of whom I said, After me cometh a Man which is preferred before me: for He was before me.

[31] And I knew Him not: but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

[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.

[35] Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

[36] And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

[37] And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

[38] Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

[39] He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and

abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

[40] One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

[41] He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

[42] And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

[43] The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

[44] Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

[45] Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

[46] And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

[47] Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

[48] Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

[49] Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

[50] Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

[51] And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

In this chapter, among the many powerful things to learn, is not the least, John's baptism. Go back up to verse 25.

[25] And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

[26] John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth One among you, whom ye know not;

Note very clearly that John references his baptism to water. In the parallel passage in

the other Gospel, John says, "I indeed baptize with water...but"...the "but" clearly indicative of something different. Same here. Continue with verse 27. There is something different coming. That is what John is saying.

[27] He it is, Who coming after me is preferred before me, Whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

[28] These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

[29] The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

[30] This is He of whom I said, After me cometh a Man which is preferred before me: for He was before me.

[31] And I knew Him not: but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Again, the direct reference to water. If baptism is always to be understood as physical H2O - why the redundance? Why the redundance of constantly seeing the water here. The redundance is there for emphasis. It's to show those of us who would be reading this hundreds or thousands of years later - that baptism is not always physical H2O water. This one was - but not always.

[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,

Again. Why the constant reference to water? Do we need to be constantly reminded that John's baptism was water? Yes, we do. That's why it's there. And that is the way of telling us that baptism is NOT always physical H2O water. In fact, this whole text is screaming at us - there is a change coming. There is a major change coming.

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.

This should scream at us - John is not talking about the same baptism. For those who use Ephesians 4's one baptism to say that the one baptism is physical H2O water only - we've got a big problem - because right here in John 1 - there are clearly 2 baptisms. There is one that is water - John's baptism. Which he constantly stresses is water - then there's another which John says belongs to Jesus - and John says that He baptizeth with

the Holy Ghost.

As I showed you last week, I believe it was, the text tells us that Jesus and His disciples also baptized with water - just like John was doing. The issue of what baptism is, is not cut - I was going to use the phrase "cut and dry" - but that would have been an unintended pun. Baptism is not always physical H2O water. In the New Covenant World - it is not physical H2O. Right here in John 1 - we see a water baptism - and we see a spiritual baptism.

My point of going to John 1 was not necessarily to show the two types of baptism discussed - so much as simply to show that there was again - a major discussion from John 1 - concerning baptism. This is the context. And, at this point, not knowing exactly what John meant - speaking concerning the time he said it - not now - because now - we should absolutely know what he meant - but moving now from what John said he was doing to what he said Christ would be doing, let's look again at John chapter 2 - just moving right along - continuing on building from John 1. Now go to chapter 2, beginning in verse 1. Because I'm telling you that the discussion of baptism is continuing right up from chapter 1 to chapter 2.

[1] And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

[2] And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

[3] And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

[4] Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

Alright. "Jesus, change the water into wine." That's what His mother said to Him and His strange response was:

Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

Please keep your finger here and turn to Matthew chapter 20. Let's begin reading in verse 17. Baptism is not always physical H2O water.

[17] And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,

[18] Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto

the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death,
[19] And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify Him: and the third day he shall rise again.

[20] Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping Him, and desiring a certain thing of Him.

[21] And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

[22] But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

[23] And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

What is Jesus talking about here? What baptism is He talking about? He's talking about His death. He's talking about His death - the same as when He told His mother - who asked Him to change the physical H₂O water into wine - His response was not strange - because He was telling us - hundreds - thousands of years later - that changing the physical H₂O baptismal waters of the Old Covenant world was a symbolic changing of that physical H₂O into the blood that He would shed that would bring about the end of the Old Covenant sacrificial system of physical blood and physical H₂O water.

That was Jesus' way of telling *us* what the changing of the water to wine meant.

It's aggravating to hear the "church" world talk about Jesus like He was some sort of two-bit New York city street magician. "Hey watch me pull a rabbit out of my hat."

No. Everything He did had major significance and was done to point people to the new and better way that was coming. When Jesus' mother asked Him to turn the physical H₂O baptismal water into wine - and He responded the way He did - He was saying that those H₂O baptismal waters of the Old Covenant were going to be changed into something completely new.

This is also why John chapter 2 follows right along with what John chapter 1's discussion was about. So, yeah, Sam, I'm right with you, buddy, it is easy to understand when we see the bigger picture.

Turn to Matthew 26. Let's begin in verse 1. We'll see more of the baptism Christ was talking about from Matthew 20. We'll understand more of "His hour" that He talked to His mother about in John chapter 2.

- [1] And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said unto His disciples,
- [2] Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.
- [3] Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,
- [4] And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill Him.
- [5] But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.
- [6] Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,
- [7] There came unto Him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head, as He sat at meat.
- [8] But when His disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?
- [9] For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.
- [10] When Jesus understood it, He said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon Me.
- [11] For ye have the poor always with you; but Me ye have not always.
- [12] For in that she hath poured this ointment on My body, she did it for My burial.
- [13] Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.
- [14] Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,
- [15] And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver Him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.
- [16] And from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.
- [17] Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto Him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?
- [18] And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, **My time is at hand**; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

My time is at hand

This is the hour that Jesus was talking about when He told His mother, "Mine hour is not yet."

[19] And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

[20] Now when the even was come, He sat down with the twelve.

[21] And as they did eat, He said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray Me.

[22] And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

[23] And He answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish, the same shall betray Me.

Stop hear with me for a second.

He that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish

Once again, baptism does not always mean physical H2O water. Look up the word here - dippeth - it's embapto. It's a verb tense of bapto.

he that baptizeth his hand with me in the dish...

The word does not always mean what the "church" says it means. Verse 24.

[24] The Son of man goeth as it is written of Him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

[25] Then Judas, which betrayed Him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.

[26] And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is My body.

[27] And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

[28] For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Now wait just a minute. I thought "baptism" was for the remission of sins. Well, it was. It was in the Old Covenant world. But Jesus is clearly talking about the New Covenant

World. Didn't He just say

For this is my blood of the **new testament**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

[29] But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

This was Jesus' hour and onto His execution. This is what He was talking about when He told His mother in John 2 that His hour was not yet - when she asked Him to turn the physical H2O baptismal waters into wine.

Jesus was not Superman. He wasn't Batman or the Green Lantern. He was the Son of God that came to put an end to the Old Covenant ways. He put an end to the Old Covenant sacrificial system. He put an end to the physical H2O water and blood elements of the system. He put an end to physical circumcision - something we have said very little about. Circumcision is of the heart - that's what the New Covenant World has for circumcision. Repentance is of the heart, circumcision is of the heart, the blood is the spiritual blood of Christ applied to us - but baptism remains a physical act with physical H2O water? I am going to say a word I don't think I've ever said in my entire life - befuddling. We see everything changed from the physical aspects of the Old Covenant into spiritual things in the New - everything - that is - except for baptism? Yes, that's befuddling to me. Back to John chapter 2 to conclude the text before we move on. Verse 5.

[5] His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.

[6] And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Judahites, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Let me remind you again, the word purifying here is directly referring to the next chapter in the book of John - as the baptism discussion continues. Flip over there again - let's see again. John 1, baptism. John 2, baptism. John 3 - verses 22 through 25.

[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.

This is the same purifying. Baptism - the baptism that John and Jesus and His disciples did in this chapter - was called purifying. This is exactly what was shown from the Law God gave Moses from Numbers 19 - washing the clothes and bathing the flesh - was called purification from sin.

Verse 7.

[7] Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

Remember now, again, these were not just any waterpots. These were the waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Judahites... If there wasn't something special we weren't supposed to learn here - why say this? Why specifically say these were the waterpots of stone that were used after the manner of the baptizing of the Judahites?

There is a message here. There is something we are supposed to know here - those that have eyes to see and ears to hear - there is a reason why the text shows us that the waterpots were ones that were used for H₂O water baptisms - and He changed that physical H₂O baptismal water into wine - a symbol of His blood. Verse 8:

[8] And He saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

[9] When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

[10] And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

Oh my goodness. HE KEPT THE GOOD WINE UNTIL NOW1

[11] This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Yes. This should be easy. We should be able to see what the message is here in the story of the water into wine. But the problem is - just like so many other things - when we've had things in our minds for 20, 30, 40 years or more - then someone comes along and points out another viewpoint - or perspective - sometimes what should be easy becomes extremely difficult.

I am amazed that people can read the Bible for so many years - then come away with a conclusion that being poured, sprinkled or immersed in H₂O physical water can “wash away sins and make someone a new creature” - I'm just amazed at that. And the reality is - not even in the Old Covenant world - could pouring, sprinkling or immersing in physical H₂O water - “wash away sins” *permanently*. It was a temporary washing at best. That's why it had to be removed. That's why it was changed. Water cannot stain. Water cannot dye - d-y-e. It is blood that stains. It is baptism into Christ that changes one thing into something else - and physical H₂O water has nothing to do with it. That was the old way - and the old way was replaced with a new, better, living, way.

Last week we talked about a major problem being that when most people hear the word “baptism” - they immediately think of physical H₂O water. And that is a really big mistake to make. Baptism - sometimes - *but definitely not always* - does have something to do with water - sometimes - but many times it doesn't. Old Covenant baptism - sometimes - but definitely not always - requires physical H₂O water - but baptism in the New Covenant World - **never** - means physical H₂O water. It always means to be immersed into, to be placed into, to be overwhelmed by, but it never means physical H₂O water.

For, I think, only the second time maybe since I began this series I am going to mention Ted - but only because we had the roundtable discussion regarding Ted's H₂O water immersion - and what I believe the Bible teaches regarding being fully immersed into Jesus Christ - the Living Water.

It kept being said that the Old Covenant ended when Christ ascended the throne at His resurrection. And since Christ ascended to His throne at the resurrection, there is simply no way that Christ would allow Old Covenant baptism to continue in the book of Acts and beyond. So the reasoning is that Old Covenant physical H₂O water baptism was changed into New Covenant physical H₂O water baptism and the apostles were no

longer performing Old Covenant purification rituals - but rather New Covenant purification rituals so that is what we are supposed to be doing in the New Covenant world.

There are several problems with this. First of all, to say that the Old Covenant ended with Christ being King is very problematic - especially if someone wants to argue that this did not occur until after His resurrection or at His resurrection.

Again, to reiterate this again. The argument is that Jesus took the throne at His resurrection (Acts 2) - and there is simply no way He would be allowing Old Covenant rituals to continue - so - the Old Covenant ritual of physical H2O purification became a New Covenant ritual required for the remission of sins and for "salvation."

This argument fails because an argument could be made from now until the end of our days - that Jesus - Yeshua - was always King. Take your Bibles and turn to Isaiah chapter 9 - a very familiar passage we have looked at many times before. This is a prophecy concerning Christ. Beginning in verse 6

[6] For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

[7] Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The wise men of learning and understanding knew that Jesus was King - long before He was manifested in the first century. Here's one that you may not have considered before. Go to the book of Daniel. This is chapter 3, let's begin with verse 24. This is after the idiot Nebuchadnezzar made his image and his accompanying national anthem and required everyone to stand and place their hand on their hearts while the song was played. (That's a little extreme with the text there, but you get the gist of what I'm saying.) So when, all of three obedient to the God of Heaven Israelites said "No, we will not bow" and Nebuchadnezzar had them thrown into the seven times hotter than normal furnace - when the God of Heaven saved His obedient ones from certain death - the text says this in verse 24:

[24] Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and

spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

[25] He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Please remember that phrase, please. Let's continue on with verse 26. There's a sidenote reason why I want to continue here. And it has to do with this phrase I've heard for more than 40 years coming from people who give lip-service to something they call "Coming out of Babylon." I believe it is a very grave mistake to refer to what we as true Christians should be doing - as far as coming out of the little g governments of the world - by referring to it as "Coming out of Babylon." We should be calling it what it really is - instead of being not only misleading - but being inaccurate as well.

We should have been compelling people to "Come out of the U.S.A." And I speak specifically to that as in the majority of those who listen to me preach each week - that is what we are surrounded by - the u.s.a. The U.S.A. is a thousand times worse than Babylon ever thought about being. There is no words to describe how much worse the U.S.A. today is than Babylon was. To me, it's a diversion - and I say again - not only is it a diversion - but it is completely inaccurate. We should have been doing everything we can do to come out of the U.S. But that, of course, would probably just sound too judgemental, or too harsh. So, we'll just say Babylon so as not to make people think we're too crazy.

The truth is - exactly like I said it - Babylon did some bad things. The idiot kings of Babylon - one right after another - did some really stupid things. But when the people of God stood up to them and said, "No, we will not bow. No, we will not obey your Godless statutes." Because of the obedience of just a handful of God's people - look what happened. This was written - just like everything else in the Bible - it was all written for our learning in the New Covenant world - look what happens when the children of Israel refuse to bow down and serve other gods. Verse 26.

[26] Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

[27] And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being

gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

[28] Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

[29] Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

The united states of america has never done this. Never have they decreed anything like this - but for more than 200 years - it has dug its heels deeper into the ground in deviance and rebellion to the God of Heaven to the point where the God of Heaven is nothing but an afterthought in the minds of most citizens of the U.S. An afterthought, a fairy tale, and even a downright laughingstock.

Would to God that the U.S. was 1/10th 1/100th the nation that Babylon was. The U.S. is showing not even a hint of repentance as the kings of Babylon did. Verse 30.

[30] Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon.

Now go to Daniel chapter 7, remembering please that there was one like the Son of God that was seen in the furnace with Ananiah, Hazariah and Mishrael. Daniel chapter 7, verse 12:

[12] As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

[13] I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man

We've read several passages today that called Jesus the Son of man.

came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

[14] And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting

dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Here is Jesus prophesied by Daniel as King - His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away.

Last week, I showed you again how Daniel's prophecy places the time of the coming of the Messiah King in the first century. Daniel's book was unsealed in the time of the end - in the first century - the last century of the Old Covenant World - the first century of the New World - Daniel's book was unsealed. Turn to Matthew chapter 2. Begin reading in verse 1.

[1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

[2] Saying, Where is he that is **born** King of the Judahites? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

He was King in Isaiah's understanding. He was King in Daniel's understanding. Because the wise men from the east understood Daniel's book - they knew when the King was to be born and they came looking for Him.

Apparently, Herod himself must have had some knowledge of the prophets because when he heard these wise men came looking for the King - Herod did some really crazy things to try to kill this new born King. Of course, he was unsuccessful. The King was born and there was nothing anyone could do about it. Continue on down to what is one of my favorite passages in the whole Bible. Go to John 2, verse 40.

[40] One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

[41] He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

[42] And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

[43] The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

[44] Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

[45] Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

[46] And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

[47] Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

[48] Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

[49] Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

The argument concerning when Old Covenant H2O water baptism is not about when He became King or when He took the throne. He's always been King. He was King in Isaiah's eyes. He was King in Daniel's eyes. He was King in the wise men's eyes when He was barely born. He was King in Nathaniel's eyes when He was a grown man - all of this prior to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Turn to Matthew chapter 21. Begin in verse 5, please.

[1] And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,

[2] Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto Me.

[3] And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

[4] All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

[5] Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

This is before His death, burial and resurrection. The issue is not when He took the throne or became King - the issue regarding the ending of Old Covenant baptism - is

when did the Old Covenant officially end? It didn't end with His resurrection. It ended when the temple was destroyed in AD70. That was the official end of the Old Covenant age. That's exactly what Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 24 - what shall be the sign of Thy coming and the end of the age - the end of the Old Covenant age?

[1] And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

[2] And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

When the temple came down in AD70 there was no longer any place for the Ordinances of Divine Service to be kept. The ending of the Old Covenant was not something that happened instantaneously. Before we continue with the Kingship of Christ (I've got so many more passages to bring out about His Kingship prior to His death, burial and resurrection) - go to the book of Hebrews for a minute. This is something we need to remember as we get further into this study. Hebrews 8, verse 13:

[13] In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

To vanish. Strong's says to dissipate like smoke. It's not instantaneous. Webster's 1828 says:

VAN'ISH, verb intransitive [Latin vanesco, vanus, vain, or its root; Eng. to wane. The primary sense is to withdraw or depart.

1. To disappear; to pass from a visible to an invisible state; as, vapor vanishes from the sight by being dissipated. Light vanishes, when the rays of the illuminating body are intercepted; darkness vanishes before the rising sun.

2. To disappear; to pass beyond the limit of vision; as, a ship vanishes from the sight of spectators on land.

3. To disappear; to pass away; to be annihilated or lost. How cheering is the well founded hope of enjoying delights which can never vanish!

Another usage of the Greek word for vanish is found in Matthew 6:19

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

It's in the word corrupt. Metal does not turn to rust instantaneously. I don't know exactly when the Old Covenant starting its official vanishing away - was it with John the Baptist? Was it with the messenger telling John's parents he would be born? Was it at the end of the book of Malachi? I don't know. If it's important, someone needs to let me know from Scripture. I think it's something fun to discuss. Is it life or death? I don't think so. But to me, it's easy, it's the simplicity of the Gospel to conclude that the days in which the Messiah came - in the first century - were the days of the end of the Old Covenant. They were the Last Days. They were the end times.

And when was the official end? Well, that is what is important. That's of most importance. The official end of the Old Covenant was when the temple - which was the center of Old Covenant Israel and everything in it - that's when the temple was destroyed. That was the official end of the Old Covenant world.

When Jesus took the throne of David as clearly shown from Acts chapter 2 (I've talked about it ad nauseum) - He took the throne to oversee the end of the Old Covenant World. And when the end completely came - with the destruction of the temple - He gave that old world kingdom up to the Father - I Corinthians 15.

Friends, show me where in the Gospels. Show me where in the Old Covenant texts, it is fully explained that the Old Covenant system of sacrifices was to end at the cross. Jesus did not fully explain this to His disciples. They knew He was going to die. They knew He was going to rise again. They didn't believe it at the time He told it to them. They knew the temple was going to be destroyed - but there is no record of them being taught the complete understanding of the passing of the Old and the establishing of the New until well after the times of the book of Acts. Not until we get into the epistles of Paul does the Bible begin to reveal the many details of the differences between the Old World and the New World. There are brief discussions in the book of Acts where Paul was accused of telling people not to obey Moses - there are at least two times that comes up.

But, not until we reach the book of Hebrews - are the majority of the details revealed as to the passing of the Old and the establishment of the New.

This is why baptisms - Old Covenant H2O baptisms - continued after the resurrection and ascension of Christ. The believers were now fully convinced they were to keep the

Law God gave Moses - but do so in the Name - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. And they did so - *zealously* (Acts 21) - until they received further instruction.

What we see in the book of Acts - when we see what looks like H2O water baptism - water purification rituals - is the believers keeping the Law God gave Moses - but doing so - in the Name of - in the Authority of Jesus Christ. Beginning next week, I plan on showing you a few more instances of the Kingship of Christ before His official ascending to David's throne - in other words - He was King from His birth and beyond - and spent His whole ministry prior to His death, burial and resurrection trying to get people to obey the Law God gave Moses.

To say that when He “became King” there's no way He would allow Old Covenant rituals to continue - just doesn't - pun intended - “hold water.” Baptism - H2O Old Covenant physical baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ - was Christ showing His Kingship over every element of the Old Covenant world - *every* element.

Baptism - H2O water baptism - in the book of Acts - was Old Covenant baptism - John's baptism - Jesus and His disciple's baptism from John 3 - only then - it was being done in the Authority of - in the Name of - Jesus. This is why the chief priests and scribes and rulers hated the believers so much. How dare you perform this ritual in the name of Jesus?

In the weeks ahead, we will see more of the vanishing of the Old Covenant during the first century. We will see the physical temple vanish away - but its ending will come as a striking event - but we will still see a vanishing period. We will see circumcision of the flesh vanish away to circumcision of the heart. And we will see physical H2O water baptism of the Old Covenant world vanish away into a completely new baptism that has nothing whatsoever to do with physical water - but rather the

pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.