

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: Baptism

Acts 2:38 -- *Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

baptized- Greek: baptizo- to make whelmed; to cover all over; from: bapto- to whelm or cover wholly with fluid; a common word used among the Greeks signifying to stain or dye a garment; the predominant signification of the word means to cover over with a stain or dye.

I Peter 3:20, 21-- *in the days of Noah-- the ark was a preparing--eight souls were saved by water-- the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us-- by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

save - Greek: sozo- to protect and deliver safely from one place to another without harm.

Genesis 6:14-- (God speaking to Noah) *Make thee an ark of gopher wood ¹pitch it within and without with ²pitch.*

¹pitch (verb)- Hebrew: Kaphar - to cover; appease; atonement; purge; pardon

²pitch (noun)- Hebrew: Kopher - to cover with bitumen from the henna plant; a stain colored coating to make boats watertight; ransom, redemption price.

Ephesians 4:5-- *One Lord, One faith, one baptism*

The water was the wrath of God in the story of the flood. It was the pitch that was the picture of New Testament baptism. Baptism (the pitch) saved (delivered) Noah and his family upon the waters (the judgment of God). Baptize, pitch and atonement all mean to "cover with a stain or dye". Once a year the high priest would enter into the Most Holy Place and sprinkle the blood of the atonement lamb (a type of the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God) covering the Ark of the Covenant (baptizing with blood - Heb. 9:7; Lev. 23:27). "Without shedding of blood is no remission (Heb. 9:22)". *Gods divine presence hovered upon the mercy seat* (kapporeth-from kaphar). If the Lamb was without spot or blemish (a type of Christ, the Lamb without sin), the wrath, of God would be appeased (Kaphar). God would look through the blood-stained covering of the mercy seat (on top of the Ark of the Covenant) at the broken law inside and the sins of the people would be forgiven. Israel was saved by baptism (covered with stain) from the wrath of God. The pitch was the covering stain (baptism/atonement) that protected and delivered (saved) Noah and his family from the wrath (water) of God. The pitch (baptism) *kept the ark from sinking* throughout the judgment of God. In like manner, the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God (John 1:29) covers and stains the believer (baptizing him), protecting and delivering (saving) him through the fiery baptism (Matt. 3:11; I Peter 1:7) of God's judgment. Paul said in Rom. 5:9, "--being now justified by his blood we shall be saved from wrath through him. John said, "He washed us from our sins in his own blood (Rev. 1:5)." The one true baptism is Holy Spirit baptism in the sprinkling of the blood of Christ, covering his elect, atoning for their sin, and calling them to obedience (I Peter 1:2) as he delivers them from the wrath of God. Baptism (staining of Christ's blood) doth also now save us (deliver us through wrath).

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