

When Few Is Eight

Controversy – 1 Peter 3

- 19-20, spirits
- 20-21, salvation
- Traditions
 - Jews: Og, King of Bashan, saved on piece of wood from ark.
 - Arabs: 80 saved on ark.

I. What? Water Saved Noah

God's longsuffering waited

- Held out long under provocation

Days of Noah

- God did not passively wait; He warned by...

Preparation of Noah, 20; Hb.11:7

Preaching of Noah, 2 Pt.2:5

Practice of Noah, Gn.6:9

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Days of Noah

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Few (eight) saved through water

- Local: passing through water. Gn.7:17-18
- Instrumental: by means of water (cf. 1; 21)

Water saved Noah...but washed away
sinners

Water saves (washes) us from sin / death

I. What? Water Saved Noah

**II. So What?
Baptism Saves Now**

There is . . . antitype

- Water that saved Noah from evil men and brought him to new world...corresponds to water of baptism that now saves sinners
- The comparison: *escaping through water*

Ep.5:26, washing of water by the word.
Mk.16:16; Ro.10:17

Type: eight souls saved through water.
Antitype: baptism now saves us.

Not removal of filth of flesh (cleansing body)

Hb.9¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,
¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

But the answer...

- ‘As an appeal to God for a good conscience’
 - ESV; NASB; NRSV; BDAG...
 - ‘The craving for a clear conscience’
 - Williams; Goodspeed.
 - ◆ Vb.: Mt.16:1; Ro.10:20. Make a request, ask.
- ‘A pledge to God proceeding from a good conscience’ – BDAG; ASV; (N)KJV: NIV.
 - Baptism pledges commitment. Ro.6.
 - Baptism brings into covenant with God.

...of a good conscience toward God

- In 3:16, while facing hostile opponents...

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1 Pt.3²¹ **baptism**... [appeal for **good conscience**; pledge proceeding from good conscience]

...through resurrection of Jesus Christ

- Baptism derives its saving effect from His resurrection.
 - Without it . . .
 - Christ would be imposter . . .
 - Baptism would be empty form.

1 Pt.3 agrees with all other passages on purpose of baptism

- Jn.3:3-5, born of *water* and Spirit
 - Ac.2, message of Spirit; water of baptism
- Ac.2:38, repentance and *baptism* (Peter)
- Ac.22:16, baptism...*wash* away sins. Ep.5:26
- Tit.3:5, washing...

“By the *washing of regeneration* I have no doubt that he alludes, at least, to baptism, and even I will not object to have this passage expounded as relating to baptism; not that salvation is contained in the outward symbol of water, but because baptism tells to us the salvation obtained by Christ” – John Calvin

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“In this remarkable passage it is positively asserted that, in some sense, *baptism saves us*; and in that same sense it must, of course, be related to the **Remission of our sins**” –James W. Willmarth, *Baptism & Remission, Baptist Quarterly*

I. What? Water Saved Noah

II. So What? Baptism Saves Now

**III. Application:
Two Salvations**

Two salvations (1/3)

- **Flood: worldwide** (2 Pt.3). Baptism: Mk.16
- God set standard (Gn.6:9). NT: baptism
- **Ark: God's idea.** Baptism, also (1 Pt.3)
- One builder: Noah (Gn.6:9). Church: Mt.16
- **One material: gopher wood.** 1 Pt.2:5
- One light, Gn.6:16. Our light: Ps.119:105
- **One family,** Gn.7:1, 7. Family, Ep.3:15
- Exclusive: one ark. Church: one, Ep.4:4
- **Voluntary admission.** Ac.2:21, whoever...

Two salvations (2/3)

- People scorned ark... Also, baptism
- Ark was covered with water. Also in baptism
- Saved in ark, 1 Pt.3:20. In Christ, Ep.5:23
- Flood water brought death. Baptism. Ro.6:4
- Destruction to all outside ark, Gn.7:20-22
Outside church, Ac.2:47
- Only adults entered ark. Only adult baptism
- Noah had work to do, Gn.6:21. 1 Co.15:58
- Noah left the watery ark. We rise... Ro.6
- God's grace saved Noah. 1 Pt.4:10

Two salvations (3/3)

- Noah/family: minority, Gn.6. 1 Pt.3:13-14.
- Noah's preaching warned sinners, 2 Pt.2:5.
- Judgment was coming, 2 Pt.2:5. 1 Pt.4:5,7
- Jesus preached through Noah, 1 Pt.1:11
Ep.2:17
- God was longsuffering, 3:20. 2 Pt.3:9
- Water was necessary, 3:20. Today, 3:21
- Few saved, 3:20. Today, 2 Pt.2:9
- Commanded to multiply, Gn.9:7. 2 Pt.1:8
- Hope realized, Gn.8:4-19. Ep.4:4

Two Judgments

- Judgment of world by water is prelude to judgment of world by fire.
- Those who do not learn from past are doomed to repeat it.
- Mt.24:37-41
 - **AS** days of Noah...
 - **SO** the coming of Son of Man...
- Uncertain part – its timing