

Baptism

John 3:3-5

A. Water Baptism

1. If the water in John 3:5 does not refer to baptism, then to what does it refer?
 - a. Some say water-birth or amniotic fluid.
 - b. But vs. 6 uses a different term, “born of flesh”.
 - c. See Jn. 1:13; Rom. 1:3; Gal. 4:23, 24
 - d. Some say water symbolizes Holy Spirit.
See Isa. 44:3; Jn. 7:37-39; 4:10-14
There seems to be nothing in context to indicate this.
There are simply two nouns, both of which are objects of one preposition “of” and are joined by a conjunction “and”.
2. Several New Testament reasons indicate that water baptism or immersion is in the mind of our Lord.
 - a. The fame of John the Baptist’s ministry. Jn. 1:26-31
 - b. Jesus’ own baptism by John Jn. 1:32-33
 - c. John the Baptist’s teaching contained a strong distinction between water baptism & spirit baptism. Jn. 1:33; Mk 1:8
 - d. John the Baptist’s relation between water baptism & the kingdom. Matt. 3:2; Jn. 3:5
 - e. There is an “interrelation” of concepts between baptism, birth & resurrection.
See Rom. 6:4-5; Col. 2:12 Notice how resurrection and birth are intertwined.
Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5; Rom. 8:9; Heb. 1:6; Acts 13:33; Jn. 3:5
3. Some say that Nicodemus would not have suspected Christian baptism at this point in time.
 - a. Jesus spoke of future events often. Jn. 2:19-22; Jn. 7:37-39
 - b. The Holy Spirit was given “only” after Pentecost, why not baptism in the name of Jesus.
Acts 2:38
4. There are only 3 of our 80 references to water in the New Testament that are disputed.
 - a. They “all” refer to baptism Jn. 3:5; Eph 5:26; Heb 10:22
 - b. Water is used in a figurative sense only 10% of the time in the New Testament or 7 times.
Once in Jn 7:38 and 6 times in Jn 4:10-15. I’ll go with 90% literal interpretation.

B. Entering the Kingdom

1. This passage undoubtedly is dealing with salvation. Salvation is called seeing or entering the Kingdom and the condition is “being born again”.
2. Kingdom is Kingship or reign of God. Daniel 2:44 speaks of a future Kingdom. The hope of Israel was the Kingdom (Mk. 4:17).
3. Establishing Jesus’ Lordship over all creation must be accomplished by our Lord’s death, resurrection and ascension to glory. (Acts 2) This establishes His realm.
4. His reign is over those who identify with Jesus through the “Good Confession”. (1 Tim. 6:12, 13; Matt. 16:18,19)
5. Of course, any one still expecting a Kingdom will not submit to being born again into it. This is a major stumbling block to most all Protestantism.

