

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Peter 3:20-21**.
- B. Peter draws a parallel to help us better understand the power of NT baptism.
- C. The context is speaking of the disobedient people in the days of Noah, and how the waters of the flood saved Noah's family.
- D. One salvation is the type (in literal terms) while baptism is the antitype (in symbolic terms).

I. TYPE - ANTITYPE IN THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. The OT is the NT concealed, and the NT is the OT revealed.
- B. Many things are in the type/anti-type format:
 - 1. Moses and Christ (Jn. 1:17). Notice Egyptian bondage, bondage of sin; law and law.
 - 2. Serpent raised and Christ (Jn. 3:14).
 - 3. The OT temple and NT church (1Cor. 3:16).
 - 4. The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover) and Lord's Supper (Mt. 26:17-29).
- C. In our consideration of the flood and baptism we see a similar arrangement.

II. THE SALVATION OF NOAH PREFIGURES THE SALVATION OF CHRISTIANS.

- A. It was the water of the flood that separated Noah from the disobedient generation that perished; and it is the waters of baptism that separates the saved from the disobedient today (1Pet. 3:20; Mk. 16:16).
- B. Noah and family were borne through the flood for nine months and his coming forth to live on the cleansed earth was a type of being born by water. We are born of the water and of the Spirit when baptized (Jn. 3:5).
- C. The antediluvians were destroyed by water because they rejected the preaching of Noah; likewise by rejecting the preaching of Christ we too will die because of not submitting to the water (2Pet. 2:5; Mk. 16:16).
- D. Water gave salvation to Noah and his family; water also gives us our salvation in baptism. This is not a physical washing, but a spiritual one (Act. 22:16). There is no real power in the water, but is just the instrument used in the symbolic cleansing.
- E. Only a few were saved by the water of the flood (eight souls), and today only a relative few are submitting themselves to baptism to be saved (Mt. 7:13-14).

III. BAPTISM NOW SAVES US.

- A. See 1Pet. 3:21. The verse simply says that it is baptism that does the saving.
- B. Not to be confused with being saved by grace through faith.
- C. The analogy is that of the water of the flood which did the saving of Noah and family and the water of baptism that saves the believer by the resurrection of Christ.
- D. The good conscience is not achieved before baptism but after. Example: command to go to my house and mow the lawn. If you only go and not mow, you have not in good conscience followed the command. See Mk. 16:16.
- E. One may also have a good conscience toward self without baptism, but the pledge of good conscience is not toward self or others, it is toward God.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Baptism is essential to salvation.
- B. The power is not in the water, but in the spiritual washing away of sins, by doing the physical act.
- C. Baptism is not a work, but a passive act, where one allows another to lower him into the water.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.