

THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME ALONE

Rom 4:11 *And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:*

The world will always be divided into two camps by God: the circumcised and the uncircumcised. The two camps will forever be separate and have nothing in common. Circumcision in the flesh cannot be hidden. The Nazis would order Jews to strip naked to check whether they were lying or not. “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:13). Now, the story of circumcision begins with Abraham. “This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you” (Genesis 17:10,11). God’s covenant with Israel was literally carved into their flesh. There was an ugly scar that marked the place where the foreskin was cut. There was a searing pain, blood, tears and great discomfort that lasted for a few days. Something, that foreskin, had to be cut off, die, be cast away.

Col 2:11 *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:*

Col 2:12 *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

The Apostle Paul reveals the mystery of circumcision in the New Testament. The foreskin represents the body we have inherited from Adam and Eve. This is why Paul states, “putting off the body of sins”. This body is cursed of God – it grows old, decays and returns to the dust. In Judaism, the term “karet” refers to a severe spiritual punishment for certain sins, including the failure to undergo circumcision, which is a significant commandment in Jewish law. Karet can be understood as being “cut off” or losing one’s share in the afterlife. Clearly, circumcision was a shadow of New Testament baptism in Jesus name.

We love our Jewish brothers and sisters, but allow me to say something to them in the love of Jesus. *The Allegory of the Cave* is found in Book VII of Plato’s “The Republic”. Imagine prisoners who have been chained inside a dark cave their whole lives. They can only see the wall in front of them. Behind them, there’s a fire, and between the fire and the

prisoners, objects are moved, casting shadows on the wall. The prisoners think these shadows are the only reality because that's all they've ever seen. One day, a prisoner is freed and discovers the fire and the objects casting the shadows. At first, he's confused but eventually understands there's more to reality than just the shadows. If he leaves the cave, he discovers the outside world, full of light and real objects, a much richer and more genuine reality than the shadows. If he returns to the cave to tell the other prisoners, they might not believe him, as they only trust what they've always seen—the shadows. As Christians we implore our Jewish brothers and sisters to come out of the cave of the shadow of circumcision. You will see Jesus standing outside the cave and discover that he is your Jehovah.

***Hebrews 10:1** For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*

May the good Lord give you a heart to understand, appreciate and desire baptism in Jesus name. King Saul actually mocked the holy practice or sacrament of baptism in Jesus name. “And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines” (I Samuel 18:25). Saul wanted David to first kill the Philistines and then bring their foreskins to him. What is the use of baptizing dead Philistines in Jesus name? One cannot force the Philistines into a covenant with God. Abraham willingly submitted to circumcision. It must come through understanding and love for the covenant of God. Do we not want to be proud of putting on the body of the Lord Jesus Christ? “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:27,28). Don't we want to be bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh? Then be baptized in Jesus name!

***Gen 2:23** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

***Eph 5:30** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*

***Eph 5:3** For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

***Eph 5:32** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

It is necessary that we remove the cursed body of Adam. This body has no access to heaven. “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither

doth corruption inherit incorruption” (I Cor 15:50). The children of Israel in the days of Joshua were given no access to enter the Land of Canaan if they did not circumcize themselves. “And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised” (Joshua 5:4,5). Imagine having suffered with your parents for forty years in the wilderness and now seeing the Land of Canaan in plain sight. Imagine now that suddenly God refuses access to this Promised Land because of their uncircumcision. They must have panicked – thank God one can always be baptized in Jesus name before it is too late. This message is not only to the unsaved, but those Christians, who like in Joshua’s day, neglected circumcision/baptism in Jesus name. It is not too late to remove the reproach of Egypt.

Joshua 5:9 And the LORD said unto Joshua, *This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.*

Note that these people ate manna everyday and enjoyed the protection of God. That does not mean they were free of the reproach or sin of Egypt. Many believers experience miracles in Jesus name but that does not mean their sins have been forgiven them – only the day you submit to baptism in Jesus name will your sins be rolled away. That is precisely the meaning of Gilgal – to roll away.

In conclusion, do we claim to be the children of Abraham? Then enter into the covenant between God and Abraham – the covenant in the flesh called circumcision. We now understand that this covenant of circumcision, which was non-negotiable, is baptism in Jesus name. “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:27-29). Abraham was the first to “put on the body of Christ” through circumcision. No wonder the Lord says, “And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 8:11).