

The Waters of Salvation: Finding the Life Within

Key Verse: Acts 8:36 (KJV) - *“And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”*

Water, the great resource that covers over seventy percent of the earth’s surface, is a symbol of life, cleansing, and divine power throughout the Scriptures. Its significance stretches beyond mere physical necessity; it speaks prophetically of spiritual rebirth, renewal, and salvation. When you stand at the shore, gazing out over endless waters, it is impossible not to marvel at what lies beneath, in the profound depths that hum with unseen life. Scientists tell us that within these uncharted depths are unfathomable creatures and worlds known only to God. In the same vein, the waters of salvation hide mysteries and realities that we can only access through faith—particularly in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—where the divine life that leads to eternal salvation is found.

In the Bible, water is often a symbol of God's power to create and to recreate. When the Spirit of God “moved upon the face of the waters” in Genesis 1:2 (KJV), it signaled the beginning of creation and the potential for renewal. Much later, in John 3:5 (KJV), Jesus tells Nicodemus, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” This statement points us to the necessity of baptism—a divine ordinance that connects us with the very death and resurrection of Christ, where true life begins.

The story of the Ethiopian eunuch exemplifies the powerful relationship between water and salvation. When Philip preached unto him Jesus, the eunuch responded eagerly, asking in Acts 8:36-37 (KJV), “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” His desire to be baptized was prompted by a recognition of the waters as a divine opportunity—a means through which he could connect to Christ’s death and resurrection, and thereby receive the gift of eternal life. Jesus Himself modeled this at His baptism in Matthew 3:16 (KJV): “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water.” The water served as a divine threshold—a boundary crossing from old life into new life, from sin to purity, from death to life.

The biblical narrative also reveals that many others found healing and new purpose in water. Naaman, the Syrian captain, was healed of leprosy in the Jordan River after obediently dipping seven times (2 Kings 5:10-14, KJV). When Naaman dipped the seventh time, his flesh was restored “like unto the flesh of a little child,” signifying a complete renewal and a new body, prepared by God's perfect work. The number seven in Scripture symbolizes divine perfection and completion—it was in obedience to God's command that Naaman was healed, just as in baptism, the believer steps into divine perfection through obedience to Christ's command, trusting God to make all things new.

We are also reminded of the Red Sea crossing, where the waters obediently parted before Moses in Exodus 14:21-22 (KJV): “And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground.” This divine act of separation symbolizes salvation—how the waters as obedient instruments of God's power deliver His people from oppression and death. It foreshadows our own salvation journey. When we walk into the waters of baptism in Jesus' name, we are entering into a divine act of salvation—a crossing from death into new life, just as the Israelites crossed through water in faith.

The Scriptures teach us that the waters are holy and responsive to God's name. When Moses raised his staff over the Red Sea, the water responded to the divine authority invested in it. Likewise, when we invoke the name of Jesus in baptism, Romans 6:4 (KJV) proclaims, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” It is in the name of Jesus that water becomes not just a physical element but a conduit of divine power—an instrument through which God imparts new life.

The prophet Jonah's experience further illustrates the rescuing power of water. Jonah, after fleeing God's command, was cast into the “great fish,” and in Jonah 2:1-2 (KJV), he prays out to God from the belly of the fish, acknowledging that it was God's salvation that rescued him: “Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.” The waters that threatened to destroy Jonah became the means of his salvation when he submitted in obedience. This echoes the principle that, in divine sovereignty, even the depths of the sea or the belly of the fish can serve as places of salvation for those who turn to God.

Similarly, Noah's ark, built and obeyed in faith, represents salvation through water. Genesis 6:17-18 (KJV) says, "And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall be consumed. But with thee will I establish my covenant." Noah's faithful obedience in building the ark, and his family's escape in the waters of the flood, symbolize the baptism of new beginnings—a cleansing from the corruption of sin and a divine covenant of renewal. The waters of the flood, destructive and purifying, serve as a reminder that divine judgment and grace are intertwined, and through obedience, God's people are preserved and given a new start.

For us today, the recognition of water's divine power calls us to respond to Christ's invitation. Just as the Ethiopian eunuch saw the water and eagerly asked, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" (Acts 8:36, KJV), we should realize the significance of that divine opportunity. No earthly obstacle or doubt should hinder us from obeying Jesus' command. Jesus declared in Mark 16:16 (KJV), "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." The waters are not merely symbolic—they are the means through which God offers us participation in His divine life.

When entering the water of baptism in Jesus' name, we not only follow the footsteps of Christ but also open ourselves to the divine work of transformation. Galatians 3:27 (KJV) emphasizes this truth: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." What a wondrous promise! In baptism, we are clothed anew with His righteousness, His purity, and His divine nature. We are changed from within, marked as belonging to Christ, with the hope of a glorious resurrection in our future. This act of faith is urgent, because the waters do not wait; they beckon. The call is clear, and the opportunity is present. We must realize that the greatest gift the Lord offers us is in these waters: life everlasting, forgiveness, a new identity, and the promise of eternal life. Every believer who steps into the water of baptism in the name of Jesus is entering into a divine transaction—one that aligns us with God's perfect plan. And as we rise out of the water, clothed in Christ and filled with His Spirit, we begin a new chapter of walking in His grace, empowered to live victoriously.

Let us heed the words of the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 3:20-21 (KJV): "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparation, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. The

like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” Here, the apostle underscores that baptism is not just physical cleansing, but a spiritual act empowered by the resurrection of Jesus—our hope and guarantee of eternal life.

As we conclude, I urge each of you to see the waters not only as a symbol but as divine channels through which the life of Christ flows into us. The waters are waiting, teeming with the promise of renewal and divine life. The divine body of Jesus, the eternal resurrected Lord, awaits each person who is willing to step in faith into that holy immersion. In every biblical story of salvation—be it Jonah, Naaman, the Red Sea, Noah, or the Ethiopian eunuch—the waters serve as a gateway to divine transformation. They recognize and respond to the name of Jesus, the Word made flesh. What are you waiting for? The moment to step into the waters of salvation is now. The greatest gift—the body of Christ—is waiting in the waters, ready to make you a new creature, clothed in His righteousness and filled with His Spirit. Do not delay. Let the waters wash away your sins, your doubts, and your old life. Put on Christ today, and walk in the newness of life, for in the waters of baptism, you