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BAPTISM

“Just say this prayer, and believe in Jesus with all your heart and rejoice knowing you are now saved and forgiven of all your sins!”

This answer to the question, “How do I become a Christian?” is given to many eager souls seeking redemption in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and yet, sadly, are being deceived by the teachings of men (Gal. 1:10-12). Since “all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim.

3:16-17), there is no confidence we may put in any answer to the question, “what must I do to be saved” unless it is found in the inspired word of God in scripture. Thankfully, scripture contains not only an example of earnest souls asking that very question, but a direct and simple answer to that question from one who was speaking through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. “Now when they

heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37). To confirm for us that the answer was coming directly from the authority of God Himself and not from the fallible mind of a mere man, the response came out of the mouth of a man who had a tongue of fire resting upon his head, speaking in multiple languages that could be understood by any nation (Acts 2:1-13). “Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,’” (Acts 2:38). Repent and be baptized was the answer given to the question what shall I do to be saved. Repent and be baptized was the answer given from the authority and power of the Holy Spirit, as evidenced in the powerfully divine way the answer was spoken. So clear and persuasive was this answer given that about 3,000 souls responded to the answer by being baptized for

then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls,” (Acts 2:41). Consequently, it should be no surprise that the answer given by an Apostle of Jesus Christ sent by Him to preach His gospel was the exact same thing Christ Himself said He wanted preached as recorded in the gospel of Mark. “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned,’” (Mark 16: 15-16). When Saul, later the Apostle Paul, was confronted with the truth that he was persecuting the actual Christ when he set himself against Jesus and His followers, he was told that baptism would wash away his sins. “A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing near said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very time looked up at him. And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name,’” (Acts 22:12-16). “And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized” (Acts 9:18). Many

today will claim that “calling on the name of the Lord” or to “call on His name” is merely to say “Jesus come into my heart” or some statement that you wish to be saved. The scripture reveals and correctly explains that calling on His name is to comply with the conditions of faith by being baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Peter shows this when he correctly interprets the prophecy of Joel which stated that everyone who called upon the name of the Lord would be saved. “But this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams,’...’And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved,’...’Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins,’...’So then, those who had received his word were baptized...And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved,” (Acts 2:16-17, 21, 38, 41, 47). Some will claim that all one must do is believe in the name of Jesus and that the moment one comes to a point of mental acknowledgment of the fact that Jesus is a Savior then they have been saved. Luke corrects this idea when he recorded the conversion of the Philippian jailer in Acts 16, indicating that when the Jailer was baptized is when he believed in Jesus. “Sirs, what

must I do to be saved?' They said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his. And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household," (Acts 16:30-34). Luke also shows us that to believe in the name of Jesus when He is being preached, is to believe in what Jesus teaches about being baptized. When Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch, the first question out of his mouth was about what he needed to do to be baptized. "The eunuch answered Philip and said, 'Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?' Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?' And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him," (Acts 8:34-38). Paul writes in Colossians very simply that when one obeys the gospel of Jesus Christ by being buried with Him in baptism and risen up with Him, then they are

forgiven of all their transgressions. "Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions," (Col. 2:12-13). "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life," (Rom. 6:3-4). "When the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you – not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him," (1 Pet. 3:20-22). – Daniel Ruegg

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



Newsweek Article - Is Archaeology Proving the Bible

In 1846—before archaeology even existed as a field—an Assyrian obelisk was discovered in what is today northern Iraq. It referred to Jehu, a ninth-century BC Hebrew king. For the first time, an archaeological find corroborated what was in the Bible, and Victorian society was electrified. But this was only the first in a torrent of similar discoveries that challenged secular claims that the Bible is a collection of made-up myths and folktales. This trend of archaeology corroborating Biblical accounts continued so consistently that in 1959 Rabbi Dr. Nelson Glueck declared "no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference." Since then, the evidence has kept coming. For example, in 1961 an inscription was found bearing the name "Pilate," the earliest known reference to this figure outside of the New Testament. In 1968, a first-century home in Capernaum was identified as that of the apostle Peter. In 1990 an ossuary was found bearing the inscription—and bones—of Caiaphas, the high priest who infamously pushed for Jesus's execution. In 1993, a stele mentioning the "House of David" was discovered, yanking King David out of the realm of myth and into the historical record. But just two weeks ago, the details of perhaps the most astonishing of all such finds appeared in a lengthy, peer-reviewed [paper](#) in *Nature Scientific Reports*. It described the cataclysmic destruction of a Middle Bronze Age city north of the Dead Sea and represented years of research and technical analysis by 21 scientists, who likely never expected to author a paper in one of the world's most prestigious scientific journals that mentioned the destruction of the Biblical city of Sodom. But in the end, the parallels proved impossible to ignore. For starters, the archaeologist who excavated the site had been guided there by what the Bible said about Sodom. Dr. Steven Collins knew if the place existed, this site – today called Tall el-Hammam – must be it. In 2006 he began excavating. When he and his team got down to about 1650 BC – when Sodom was believed to be destroyed – they uncovered a five-foot layer of soot. Randomly scattered throughout this vast "destruction matrix" were bits of melted brick, burned fragments of human bones and other baffling detritus. No volcanic eruption – or fire or earthquake – could have produced this. The *Nature* article concludes explicitly that what happened in 1700 BC bears inescapable parallels to what the Bible says about Sodom. That a prestigious journal of science would admit these things should at least make skeptics sit up and take notice.

