WATER THE DIVIDING LINE.

In the beginning God created the earth and separated the water from the land, He called the land earth, and the water He called sea.

In the sixth chapter of Genesis, God looked down on the earth and saw that the imaginations of mens hearts were evil continually, and decided to destroy man from the earth by a flood. But Noah found favor with God, and as we read from Hebrews 11,7 By faith Noah being warned of God of things not seenas yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of His house. And Peter says, in His epistle referring to this, that Noah was saved by water.--But those who were wicked were destroyed by water. And Peter says "The like figure, whereunto even baptism doth also now save us." We will come back to this after bringing up other references, of water accomplishing the purpose of God.

There was Naaman the leper recorded in 2 Kings 5 Who was healed of his leprosy, when he obeyed the command of the prophet Elisha, who told him to go and dip himsel in the river Jordon seven times and he would be healed. At first he refused, but his servant persuaded him and he went and dipped himself seven times, as the prophet had told him, and he was healed.--Like Noah, He obeyed the command and was healed.

Another illustration is recorded inExodus 14. Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt under God's guidance, came to the Red sea, Pharoah and his army were close behind then in persuit, Moses said to the children of Israel, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord which He will shew unto you this day; For the egyptians which ye see today, ye shall see no more, he stretched out his rod across the sea as God commanded, The sea parted sothat the israelites went over on dry land--But the Egyptians essaying to do likewise were destroyed when Moses stretched forth his rod across the sea and it came together and destroyed the enemy.--1 Cor, 10, 1 Referring to this"" Moreover brethren, I would not have you ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and in the sea, and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea, And did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink of that same spiritual rock. For they drank of that rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. They were saved after passing through the water, and the Egyptians were destroued by the water.

We now come to the New testament and notice some important things being brought about by using water. Jn. 9 A man who was blind, Jesus spat on the ground, made clay of the spittle, and anointed the eyes of the blind man, and told him to goand wash in the pool of Siloam, which he did and came seeing.--By obedience to Christ's command.

In Mt. 3 John the baptist came in the wilderness of Judea, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.--Jesus rebuked some who did not obey John, and told them that they had rejected the counsel of God against themselves, not being baptized of him,--Lu. 7, 30.

We find later that those who were baptized of John, were, by Paul baptized in the name of Christ, This was after the New testament went into effect, as recorded in Ac. 2 on the day of Pentecost When the Holy Ghost fell on the apostles, giving them the power to administer The New Testament according to 2 Cor. 3, 6 But our sufficiency is of God, Who hath made us (apostles) able ministers of the new testament. They began using this power after Christ ascended, in obedience to the commission given them just before He ascended, and commanded them to Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mk, 16, 15-18 also Mt. 28, 19 Go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you. He told them to tarry in the C city until they were endowed with power from on high, that they would receive power after the Holy Ghost came on them, The Holy Ghost came on them, and they began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance as recorded in Acts2 .

We find in the New testament beginning with the Acts that baptism in water was, and is, the dividing line, the end of our sinful life, and the beginning of our Spiritual life, as we study the following scriptures. First we go to Jn. 3, 3-5-7 and learn the importance of water in the new birth, Speaking to Nicodemas, Verily, verily I say unto you, Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, He cannot enter into the kingdom of God.--Nicodemas did not understand, neither would we if we could not have more information, which we get by following the apostles through the Asts of the apostles. Ac. 2 38 Peter told the Jews who had crucified the Saviour, to repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jes Christ for the remission of your sins,---We now turn to Ac, 8, 26-40 where we learn that Philip Preached Christ to the Eunuch, he asked what doth hinder me to be baptized? Philip answered "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. He said I believe that Jesys Christ is the Son of God. ** Philip baptized him, and when they came up out of the water, the Eunuch went on his way rejoiceing.

Turn to page 2.

In matthew 28,19,20 After Christ arose from the dead,and just before He ascended.Also Mk.16,15-16 He commanded them to Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature,he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,He that believeth not shall be damned.Mt.16,19 He promied to give them the kingdom,and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven,.He previously had promised to send the Holy Ghost to guide them in the things they should teach and bring to their remembrance the things He had taught them.--Ac.1,8Jesus speaking to the apostles.But ye shall receive power aftrer that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.And in verse 4 He commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem until they received that power.&c. Jn.20,22 He breathed on them and said,Receive ye the Holy Ghost;whosesoever sins ye remit they are remitted unto them,and whosesoever sins ye retain,they are retained.Then in Ac.2 they were all with one accord in one place and the Holy Ghost came upon them,they began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance,Convinced the Jews that they had crucified and slain the Son of God,that God had raised Him from the dead.And they cried Men and brethren,What shall we do?Peter began using the keys of the kingdom,and told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins,and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.Ac.2,38.--And they that gladly received his word were baptized,verse 41 and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls,And in Verse 47 And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.And as Col.1,13 says Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness (condemnation)and hath translated us into the kingdom of Gods dear son. In whom we have redemption,through His blood,even the forgiveness of sins.

Baptism is an important item in a persons salvation,It is acommand Ac 2,38 Repent and be baptized every one of you,in the name of Jesus Christ.--Ac..10,48 And he(Peter)Commanded them to be baptized in the name of of the Lord.Mk.16,15-16 Salvation is promised to those who believe the gospeland are baptized.Ac.2,38 Promised to those who repent and are baptized. Also we go through the likeness of the death,burial and resurrect -ion of of Christ,and are raised (frOm baptism) to walk a new life Ro.6, 3-7 Know ye not that so many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death?therefore were buried with Him by baptism into death,that like as Chrost was raised from the dead by the glory of Father,even so also we should walk in newness of life.5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death,We shall be also in t the likeness of His resurrection.Knowing this,that our old man is crucified with Him,that the body of sin might be destroyed,that we henceforth should not serve sin.--When is the sinful man destroyed? In baptism. Wher do we begin a new life?After baptism,when we arise from the watery grave, as Christ arose from the grave and received all power in heaven and earth Took His place as king of Kings and Lord of Lords.Ro.6,17 We obey from the heart that form of doctrine(The death,burial,and resurrection of our Saviour)me which was delivered you,being then made free from sin,ye bee came servants of righteousness. A new life,baptized into Christ,Baptized into one body(the Church) 1 Cor.12,13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.--Col.1,18 And He is the head of the body,the church,Gal.3,27 For as mahy of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Jn.3,5 Jesus Told Nicodemas,that a man had to be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.Jesus says The words that I speak unto you,they are Spirit and they are life.The Spirit gave the word thru the apostles,People heard ,believed the word spoken,repented of their sinsand were baptised for the remission of their sins--1 Pe.1,22 Seeing You have purified youe souls in obeying the truth,--through the Spirit, being born again,not of corruptible seed;But of incorruptible,by the word of God ,which livetha nd abideth forever.--The word of God,the seed of the kingdom. Sanctify them through thy truth,Thy word is truth Jn.17;17.

1 Pe.3,21 Comparing Noah and his family,being saved by water says,the like figure,whereunto even baptism doth also now save us,.Our sins are washed away in baptism according to Ac.22,16,Annanias came to Paul who had been praying three days and said to him,Now why tarriest thou,Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins,calling on the name of the Lord.

Therefore obedience to the word of God,Believeing it,confessing that we believe it ,repenting of our sins,then being baptized for the remission of ouf sins,saved,added to the Church,delivered from the power of darkness,and translated into the kingdom of God(s dear Son,in whom we we have redemption through His name,even the forgiveness of sins.

If a man be in Christ He is a new creature,a new life before him. And the promise of eternal life.--Which we all hope to gain.

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