

## CUT OFF FROM A DYING WORLD

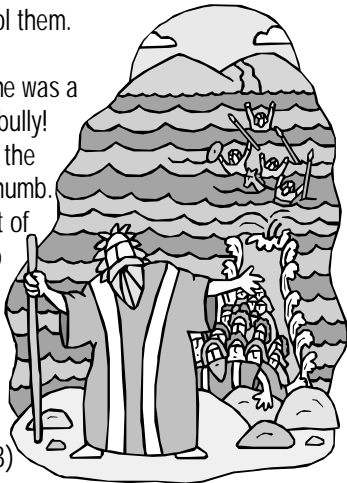
Peter says that baptism is like getting a ride on the ark! We make a response to God which cuts us off from the world outside. Noah wanted to do the will of God -- so do we!  
(See 1 Peter 3:21)

## BEATING THE BULLY

Paul offers another angle on baptism. The Exodus was a parallel baptism. Moses took the Israelites through the Red Sea. The Pharaoh chased them because once they were on the other side he could not control them.

Just like the devil, he was a slave-driver and a bully! He wanted to keep the people under his thumb. Once they were out of Egypt they were no longer slaves. They could take on any new bully who came along.

(1 Corinthians 10:3)



# FULL SALVATION

Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved, but anyone who does not believe will be punished. (Mark 16:6)

You could be excused from thinking that believing without being baptised leaves you in a no-man's land where you were avoiding punishment but not actually being saved. That's because there are three stages in being saved

### 1: JUSTIFICATION

This happens when we trust Jesus for our eternal future

### 2: SANCTIFICATION

This is a process by which we become holy and more like Jesus. Baptism helps in making this happen when it is added to faith and discipline

### 3: GLORIFICATION

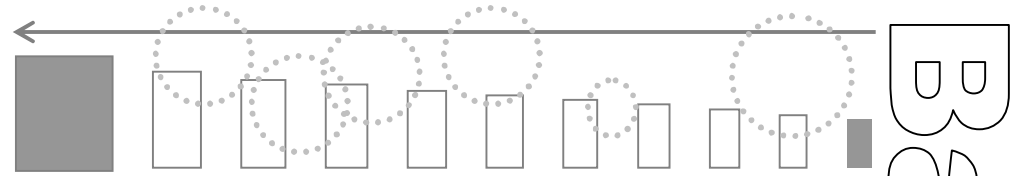
When the Day of Judgement comes we will be totally glorified – But that can't happen unless we have been made holy

## WATER & SPIRIT

As well as going through the sea the Israelites were "under the cloud." Paul uses this to bang home the point that baptism in water is closely connected to baptism in the Spirit. They came in the same promise in Acts 2. In Acts 11 having one meant that nobody could refuse the other. In Acts 19 they were connected as well.



...because everybody is somebody



When people wanted to know how to respond to Jesus, Peter gave several steps. Baptism was Peter's second big step in responding to God. It follows on from repentance.

**Repentance is a change of heart that results in practical action. Baptism is a practical action that demonstrates a change of heart.**

It is for people who believe in Jesus Christ. That is why there isn't any particular point in baptising babies who are not in a position to say whether they believe or not!

- ✓ On the first day of the Christian church 3000 people got baptised. (Acts 2:41)
- ✓ When the church moved out to Samaria people were baptised. (Acts 8:12)
- ✓ The outcome of Philip's talk with the first African convert was baptism. (Acts 8:38)
- ✓ Paul was baptised three days after his encounter with Christ (Acts 22:16)
- ✓ When the first non-Jews followed Jesus the big issue was "Can we allow them to be baptised?" (Acts 10:48)
- ✓ In Corinth "Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptised". (Acts 18:8)

You can see that these people had been believers for anything from a few minutes to a few days. So when the apostles baptised they weren't looking for people who knew lots of facts.

# Baptism Then & Now