

First Mentions in Baptismal Arguments


First mentions in the Bible are a great start in determining doctrine for most topics. This is particularly true in the discussion on baptism w/water. Where does one start in a debate over baptism w/water, one of the most controversial subjects in the scriptures?

John the Baptist baptized w/water in Jordan.

Mark 1:8-9 I indeed have **baptized** you **with** water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. ⁹ And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was **baptized** of John in Jordan.

JOHN THE BAPTIST



Many baptistic churches argue their doctrinal position on baptism starting from the first mentions of baptism in the Gospels relating to John the Baptist. Baptism is treated as a brand-new concept.

	FIRST MENTIONS Baptist (Mt 3:1); baptism (Mt 3:6); baptized (Mt 3:7)
Old Testament	Luke 3:16 John answered... I indeed baptize you with water... 

WHY WITH WATER

The narrative completely changes when asking **why** John was baptizing **w/water**?

Discussion turns into an argument over a mode & symbolism! Was baptism via sprinkling, pouring or immersion? Does immersion depict the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus; when did that begin?

FIRST MENTION washed their clothes	Luke 3:16 John answered... I indeed baptize you with water ... 
Mosaic Covenant	

Contrary to popular belief, John the Baptist wasn't the first Baptist!

Moses Sanctifies the People Ex 19:7-10 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. 8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. 9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD. 10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, Ex 19:14 And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

A PROPHET LIKE UNTO ME

Acts 3:22-23 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear **that prophet**, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Acts 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

AN EXPECTED BAPTIZER

John 1:19-26 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? 20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. 21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. 22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? 23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. 24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? 26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

JESUS GIVEN CREDIT FOR BAPTIZING MORE DISCIPLES THAN JOHN

John 3:22-26 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. 23 And John also was baptizing in AEnon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. 24 For John was not yet cast into prison. 25 Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

John 4:1-2 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, 2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

Though neither Moses or Jesus personally baptized, both are given the credit. The answer as to why the element of water was key in the kingdom message, during John's & Jesus' ministries, is linked back to the Mosaic Covenant.

Did the significance of this element somehow 'switch horses midstream' somewhere in turning of pages from Malachi to Matthew or during the timeline between the Gospels & Acts? All of a sudden, what the element of water symbolized under the Mosaic Covenant becomes a battle over modes? Did water symbolize something different under John (Jn 3:25; Num 8:7, 21) than when Saul was baptized by Ananias (Ac 22:16) or when Paul baptized a few Corinthians (1Cor 1:14-17)?

Jesus, being the prophet like unto Moses, gave commandments from a mountain top that would be 'Law' during the earthly kingdom reign of Christ (Mt 5:1-8:1, (5:19); Mt 28:19-20).

Deductions on any Bible subject is a reflection from where that discussion or debate started!