

## Creation - Genesis 1:1-10 NKJV - The History of Creation

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>**Then God said**, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

<sup>6</sup>**Then God said**, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup>Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. <sup>8</sup>And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

<sup>9</sup>**Then God said**, “***Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place***, and let the dry *land* appear”; and it was so. <sup>10</sup>And God called the dry *land* Earth, and ***the gathering together of the waters He called Seas***. And God saw that it was good.                      **WATER CHANGES EVERYTHING**

In this story, the world is “***without form;***” without function and without purpose.

- **The world just ‘is,**
- But then the Lord comes along and ***moves upon the “face of the waters.”***
- After that, ***the world is changed.***

***Through this first act, the Lord begins to mold and change the Earth.***

- **First,** He separates light from darkness.
- **Then** He separates Heaven from Earth.
- **Next,** He separates the sea from dry land.

In each instance, the Lord can be seen separating elements which already existed.

- ***He creates objects that are new;*** plants, birds, fish, and eventually man.
- Most of these elements are created out of raw materials **He created in the beginning.** Earth, sea, sky, and light form the canvas ***unto which the Lord paints the rest of the picture.***

***So many of us were like the world when we found the Lord***

- We just existed without any real purpose.
- We lived our lives in a routine that was likely dictated by someone else
- We went through our day without a clear purpose or direction
- We existed to serve the routine.
- Our lives were void and without form.

***Then the Lord moved upon our life***

- *He began to separate* the good from the bad.
- He set aside our talents for His purpose.
- He purged our instincts and raised our higher moral purpose.

***These elements serve as the starting canvas onto which the Lord paints the picture of our life.***

***There's a concept in science called 'entropy.'***

- Entropy is disorder; chaos
- ***One of the truths in science*** is that entropy always increases.
- Whenever anything occurs in the Universe, the overall disorder of the Universe increases.
- **The world started out as** a highly organized state, but has been continuously becoming more disorganized over time.

***Our lives aren't Immune to this effect.***

- *The Lord separates* the "land" from the "water" in our live's when we're saved
- But over time the water and land tend to re-combine into mud again.
- We must constantly work to keep the carnal and spiritual parts of our lives separate and under control.

**Baptism for Us –**

***Baptism comes from the Greek word "baptimos" which means, "To dip or immerse."***

- Christian baptism, it requires that a person be fully immersed.
- **The formula of the baptism** may not have been truly represented until Jesus' resurrection, then we could see the full meaning of the symbolism.

## Remittance of Sins

**Acts 2:38 NKJV** - <sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for **the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 22:16 NKJV** - <sup>16</sup> And now **why are you waiting?** Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

***Baptism is simply an outward expression of an inward faith!***

- That one’s **repented and received Jesus** as Lord and Savior!

**Acts 2:38 says, “for the remission of sins,”** it means ‘in order to cause the sins to be removed.’

***God’s record of us as sinners is wiped out –***

- And the **penalty for sin, eternal spiritual death, is removed.**

**Remission applies to all sins from which we repent,** regardless of when they are committed.

## Identification with Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus

**Romans 6:3-14 NKJV –**

<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

<sup>4</sup> Therefore ***we were buried with Him through baptism into death***, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so ***we also should walk in newness of life.***

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, **that our old man was crucified with Him**, that **the body of sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

<sup>7</sup> **For he who has died has been freed from sin.** <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

<sup>10</sup> For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

<sup>11</sup> Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

<sup>13</sup> And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

<sup>14</sup> ***For sin shall not have dominion over you***, for you are not under law but under grace.

**Just as Jesus was buried and rose again, so we experience that death during baptism.**

We come into the church as sinners, ***we die to our sin through repentance***, we are *buried to our sin* through immersion of baptism, and ***we are resurrected to a new life in Jesus*** when we rise from the water.

As Paul says, we aren't subject to our old sin before baptism, because ***we are dead to our old selves***.

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### **The Baptism Formula – This water changes everything**

**When we come into the full knowledge of the Truth.**

- When we have received *the free gift of Salvation*.
- When we *have repented*
- When we are *born again*.

### **Baptism In The Name Of Jesus -Acts 4:12 - CEV**

<sup>12</sup> **Only Jesus has the power to save!** His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone.

**Question: "What is the proper mode of baptism?"**

**Baptism**, by its inherent definition, must be **an act of immersion in water**.

**Baptism illustrates a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.**

**Romans 6:3-4 - CEV**

<sup>3</sup> Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptized also share in his death?

<sup>4</sup> When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. ***We were baptized, so that we would live a new life,*** as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

- The action of being immersed in the water pictures ***dying and being buried with Christ.***
- The action of coming out of the water **illustrates Christ's resurrection.**

**Baptism by immersion is not a prerequisite for salvation.**

It is rather **an act of obedience, a public proclamation of faith in Christ and identification with Him.**

**Baptism is a picture of our leaving our old life and becoming a new creation.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 - CEV**

<sup>17</sup> Anyone who belongs to Christ is **a new person.** The past is forgotten, and **everything is new.**

**Baptism by immersion is the only mode that fully illustrates this radical change.**

**WHOS READY FOR RADICAL CHANGE TODAY?**