

# Alien Baptism

Antiochan Apologia - Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

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## I. WHAT IS BAPTISM

### A. The Meaning of the Word Baptism

1. BAPTIZO means “to dip under, plunge beneath.”
2. We use the word immersion to designate this definition
3. Every time you read this word in the Bible, it means the same thing.

### B. Three Useful Words

1. Immersion - Putting the candidate under the water
2. Submersion - Being sure the candidate is completely under water
3. Emersion - To emerge from beneath the water

### C. Four Elements of Baptism

#### 1. A Scriptural Subject or Candidate

- a. This must be someone who is already saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-10).
- b. Alexander Campbell said in his article on *Christian Baptism*:
  - (1) Remission of sins cannot be enjoyed by any person before immersion. Belief of this testimony is what impelled us into the water, knowing that the efficacy of His blood is to be communicated to our consciences in the way God has pleased to appoint: we stagger not at the promise but flee to the sacred ordinances which brought the blood of Jesus in contact with our consciences. Without knowing and believing this, immersion is a blasted nut, the shell is there, but the kernel is wanting.”
- c. The Council of Trent (Roman Catholic) stated:
  - (1) Baptism is a sacrament instituted by Christ to wash away original sin, and all those we may have committed : to communicate to mankind the spiritual regeneration and grace of Jesus Christ, and to unite them to the living head. If any man shall say that baptism is not essential to salvation, let him be accursed. In baptism not only our sins are remitted, but all the punishment of sin and wickedness.”
- d. John Wesley (Methodist) in his publications says,
  - (1) It is certain that our church supposes that all who are baptized in their infancy are at the same time born again. If infants are guilty of original sin, they cannot be saved in the ordinary way unless this be washed away by baptism.”
- e. The Bible says:
  - (1) Acts 8:36-37 “ ...what doeth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”<sup>1</sup>

#### 2. A Scriptural Mode

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<sup>1</sup>These quotations are taken from *Alien Baptism and the Baptists*, by W. M. Nevins

- a. Sprinkling and pouring have been modes of baptism for hundreds of years, but the scriptural mode is immersion (baptism).
  - b. All Greek scholars say the same thing concerning the meaning of baptism, and that is that no good lexicons every say that baptism can be translated “sprinkle” or “pour.”
    - (1) Prof. W. S. Tyler, Amherst College
    - (2) Prof. Dodge, University of Michigan
    - (3) Prof. Flagg, Cornell University
    - (4) Pfo. H. Kynaston, D.D., University Durham
    - (5) Prof. G. C. Warr, M.A., King’s College
    - (6) Prof. John Stracham, M.A. Owen’s College
    - (7) Prof. G. E. Mamdin, University London
    - (8) Prof. R. C. Jebb, University Cambridge
  - c. There is simply no reason to believe that there is any other mode for baptism other than IMMERSION.
3. A Scriptural Design
- a. Bro. W. M. Nevins says, “The subject of baptism, therefore, does not profess so much his private faith, but the faith of the denomination baptizing him.”
  - b. Roman Catholicism Design - To wash away original sin.
  - c. Alexander Campbell’s Design - In order to the remission of sins.
  - d. Methodists - In order to regeneration, and in infants to wash away original sin.
  - e. Episcopalians - To be made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor in the kingdom of heaven.
  - f. Presbyterian - A sign and seal of the engrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by his Spirit, of adoption and resurrection unto eternal life.”
    - (1) Interpretation of this by Dr. Nevin - “The church makes us Christians by the sacrament of holy baptism ...”
    - (2) Interpretation of this by Dr. Hodge of Princeton University - “We are baptized in order that we may be united to Christ, and be partakers of His benefits.”
  - g. Design of Baptist Churches
    - (1) A picture of the Gospel - Death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
    - (2) Romans 6:4 - *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
4. A Scriptural Administrator
- a. Many beautiful streams and pools existed around Nazareth; but if Jesus had been baptized there, it would have been *Alien Baptism*.
  - b. Jesus had to walk 60 miles to a man whom God had ordained to baptize, the only authority on earth to perform baptism was John the Baptist.
  - c. Mark 11:29-33

## II. ALIEN BAPTISM

- A. Baptism of Jesus, the 12 Apostles, and the believers in the beginning was scriptural.
- B. Some went astray from the first principles of the word of God.

1. See Acts 15:24 - Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment:
  2. 1 John 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us: for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.
  3. 1 Cor. 11:2 - Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered *them* to you.
- C. Catholic Baptism Is Alien Baptism
1. It is difficult to know the specific beginning of the Catholic Church.
  2. Many errors began in the churches of the Lord in the New Testament.
    - a. Acts 15:5 - *But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.*
    - b. 1 Peter 5:3 - Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being examples to the flock.
    - c. We know from history that in the late in the first century that many errors crept into the churches, and these became what we know as *irregular churches*. SEE CHART OF TRAIL OF BLOOD.
    - d. In the second century, Baptismal Regeneration began to be taught. This made these churches irregular basically on baptism, so their baptisms was Alien Baptisms.
    - e. From the time of these irregular churches, a line of false churches began to exist,
- D. Protestant Baptism Is Alien Baptism
1. If Protestant churches would agree that Catholic baptisms are *alien*, or unscriptural, they would by that be admitting that their own baptisms are invalid, also.
  2. This from *Trilemma* by J. R. Graves, "Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Knox, and all the first ministers, and all those who composed the first societies of the Reformers, were baptized by Roman Catholic priests, and in the Church of Rome, and consequently their baptisms are unscriptural and invalid."
  3. Protestants, then, cannot know whether their baptism is valid or not.
  4. Bishop Alexander of Alexandria once saw a group of boys engaged in a play called "boy bishop" in which they would imitate all things usually performed in the Church, especially the administration of baptism. This bishop conferred with a council of his clergy, and the conclave solemnly resolved that "the baptism so administered by these boys in play was lawful and valid, and was not to be repeated."
  5. How many Protestant boys were baptized in this way? How can they be sure that their baptisms did not come from this kind of play?
  6. By their own admission, Presbyterians were baptized by the Catholic Church, whose ministers, they say, are not valid ministers of the Gospel; so they are disannulling their own baptisms.
  7. If the Catholic church had the authority to baptize the Reformers, they also had the authority to exclude them and deem them unworthy and invalid ministers.
- E. A Record of John Calvin's Baptism (Taken From *Trilemma*)
1. Before Little Calvin could be baptized, he must answer some questions; but, being too young to answer, his godfather answered for him.
  2. Priest: What is your name?
  3. Little Calvin: John Calvin
  4. Priest: John, dost thou renounce the devil and all his works?
  5. Little Calvin: I do renounce them.

6. Priest: Dost thou detest and abhor all the maxims and vanities of the world, which are the pomps of the devil, and abhor all sins which are his works?
7. Little Calvin: I detest and abhor them all
8. Priest: Dost thou believe in God, the Father, Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth?
9. Little Calvin: I believe
10. Priest: Dost thou believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born and suffered death?
11. Little Calvin: I believe
12. Priest: Dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life eternal?
13. Little Calvin: I do believe
14. Priest: John, do you desire to be baptized?
15. Little Calvin: I do desire it.
  - a. Then the priest anointed him with holy oil on his breast and between the shoulders, making the sign of the cross and saying, "I anoint thee with the oil of salvation, in Christ Jesus our Lord, that thou mayest have life everlasting." The father then held the babe, bareheaded, over the font, and the priest poured the greasy water, consecrated as aforewritten, into the child's face, in the name of the Trinity.
16. We should conclude, then, that anyone baptized without proper authority does not have valid baptism. This by the admission of Catholics and Protestants alike.
17. There is no *alien baptism* within the realm of Catholic and Protestant churches as such. They do not speak of the matter at any length at all.

### III. SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM

- A. We have discussed that proper authority must be present behind every baptism.
- B. This authority is in the Lord's kind of church.
  1. Jesus Built a Church - Matt. 16:18
  2. Jesus Commissioned a Church - Matt. 28:18-20
  3. Baptism was included in this commission
  4. Therefore, baptism must be performed by the authority of one of these churches.
  5. A line of scriptural baptisms has been performed from John the Baptist until our day, and they will be until Jesus comes again; otherwise, there is no scriptural baptism today.
- C. The Irregular Churches forfeited their authority to baptize when they began to teach error, taking their churches away from the scriptural position on baptism, thus causing them to perform what we call *Alien Baptism*.
- D. To find a scriptural church, first eliminate *Alien Baptism*, and you are on your way.
- E. Eliminate those who were begun too late:
  1. Christian Science - Mary Baker Eddy, 1879
  2. Mormons - Joseph Smith, 1830
  3. Christian - Alexander Campbell, 1927
  4. Methodist - The Wesleys, 1730
  5. Episcopalians - Henry VIII, 1538
  6. Presbyterians - John Calvin, 1532
  7. Lutherans - Martin Luther, 1521
- F. Eliminate Those Who have the wrong doctrines

1. Infant Baptisms
  2. Baptize Unbelievers
  3. Baptize by other than Immersion
  4. Church membership without baptism
  5. Lord's Supper without baptism
  6. Democratic Government
- G. Notice the Scriptures
1. 2 Thess. 3:6 - *Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.*
  2. Romans 16:17 - *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*
  3. This is what Baptists have been doing for centuries

#### IV. BAPTISTS AND ALIEN IMMERSION

##### A. Anabaptists

1. Neander, in his church history, says,
  - a. It was a Roman bishop Stephanus, who, instigated by the spirit of ecclesiastical arrogance, issued a sentence of excommunication against the pastors of Asia Minor, Cappadocia, Galatia, and Cilicia, stigmatizing them as Anabaptists, a name, however, which they could justly affirm they did not deserve by their principles: for it was not their wish to administer a second baptism, but they contended that the previous baptism given by heretics (other sects) could not be recognized as a true one" (Vol. 1, pages 318 and 319).
2. Mosheim, a Lutheran historian said,
  - a. The true origin of that sect which acquired the name of Anabaptists by the administering anew the rite of baptism to those who came over to their communion is hid in the remote depts of antiquity, and is consequently extremely difficult to be ascertained. (Vol. 4, page 427).
3. The church of the Lord Jesus was not always called Baptist. They have been called by many different names throughout history, but this church is still here today.

##### B. Persecutions

1. More Baptists have been killed over this doctrine than any other kind of killing in the entire world.
2. In "The Trail of Blood" we find that over 50,000,000 believers were killed over this doctrine of baptism, simply because Anabaptists would not accept the baptism of the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church admits this unto this day.

##### C. Baptists of Today

1. "Anabaptists never did commune with Rome, or those who received her baptisms. The Baptists of today are the descendants of the Anabaptists who have, for so many centuries, witnessed for Christ, against the corruption of Antichrist. We leave the question with the Protestants of this age to answer, if they can, and preserve their ecclesiastical existences: ARE THE BAPTISMS OF THE PAPAL HIERARCHY VALID BAPTISMS? (Trilemma, J. R. Graves).