

Was water baptism
required for salvation
under the
kingdom program

A Clear and Unified Command

Remission of Sins

John the Baptist

Mark 1:4 / Luke 3:3

Preached the baptism
of repentance for the
remission of sins.

Apostle Peter

Acts 2:38

Commanded repentance
and baptism in the name
of Jesus Christ for the
remission of sins.

Both John the Baptist and Peter establish water baptism
as an explicit necessity for the remission of sins.

The Requirement Established



Acceptance

Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is
baptized shall be saved...



Rejection

Luke 7:29-30

The Pharisees and lawyers
rejected the counsel of God
against themselves, being
not baptized.

Rejecting water baptism was a rejection of the gospel itself.

Washing Away Sins

Acts 22:12-16

Step 1

God chooses Saul to know His will and be a witness.

Step 2

Ananias, a devout man, is sent to Saul.

Step 3: The Action

“arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”

Under the kingdom program, the physical act of water baptism is directly linked to the spiritual washing away of sins.

The Thief on the Cross

Luke 23:39-42

One malefactor admits his guilt and asks the Lord to remember him in His kingdom.

Luke 23:43

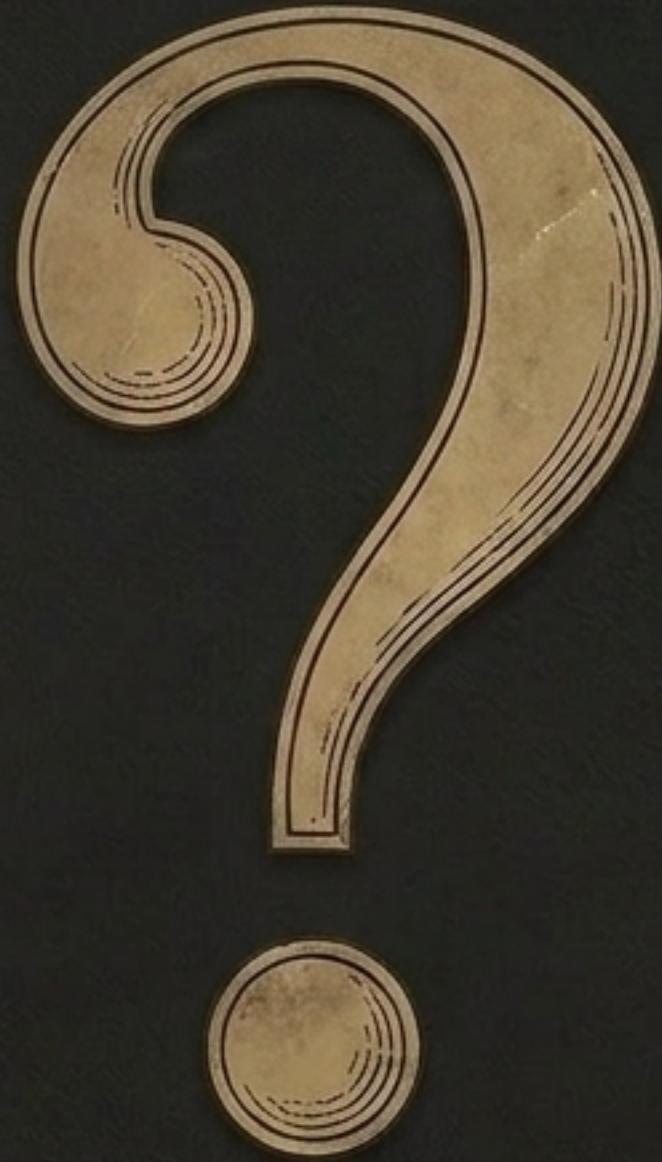
Christ declares: To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

THE TENSION: The thief was definitively saved, but he entirely bypassed the requirement of water baptism.

A Theological Paradox

Fact 1

Baptism is repeatedly presented as a strict necessity for salvation.



Fact 2

The thief on the cross entirely bypassed this requirement and was still saved.

How can this contradiction be reconciled in light of the rigid scriptural requirements previously established?

The Like Figure

1 Peter 3:18-21 — For Christ also hath once suffered for sins... went and preached unto the spirits in prison... in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. **The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...**

INSIGHT

To those under the kingdom program, the text explicitly maintains that baptism saves, but introduces the concept of a 'figure' or representation.

The Symbolism of the Water

Noah's
Day

People who were saved were placed safely inside the ark
(saved by staying dry).

Kingdom
Program

To be saved, an individual must be baptized (touched by water).

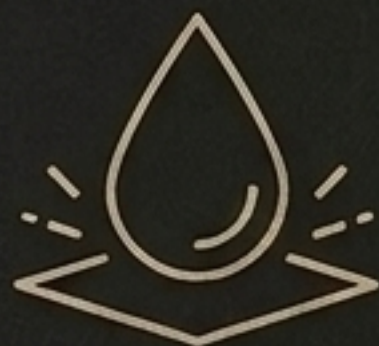
Synthesis: The requirement of getting wet is clearly symbolic, pointing to a much deeper spiritual reality rather than a physical mechanism.

What Water Cannot Do

*(not the putting away of the filth of the flesh,
but the answer of a good conscience toward God)*

The Physical

Falling into a puddle of mud can be fixed by a physical shower. Water perfectly cleans the exterior of the flesh; it puts away physical filth.

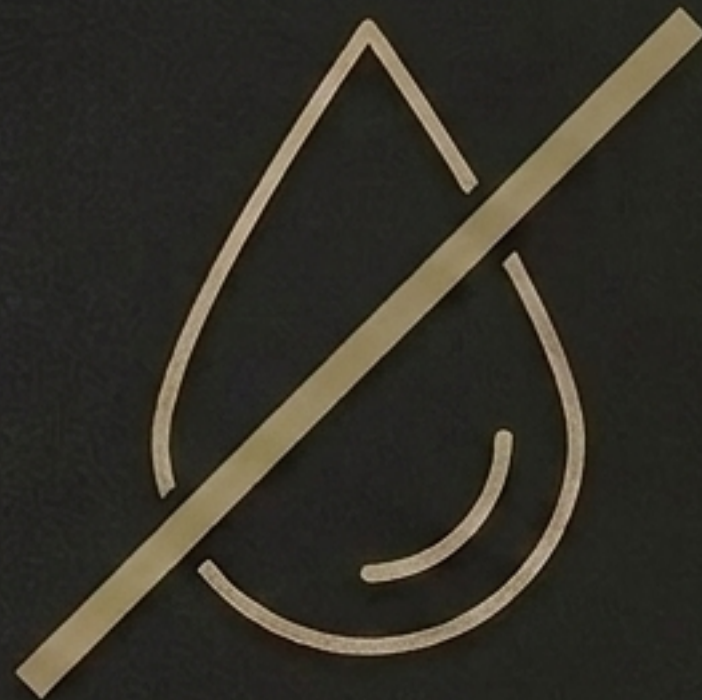


The Spiritual

A physical shower cannot wash away the internal stain of sin.

If physical water worked, Old Testament animal sacrifices would have been entirely unnecessary—the priests could have just instructed people to take a bath.

The Ultimate Solvent for Sin



Revelation 1:5

...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our
sins in his own blood.

The agent that actually washes away the filth of sin is not
physical water, but exclusively the blood of Christ.

The Answer of a Good Conscience

Phase 1: Hearing

The gospel of the kingdom is preached (the command to repent and be baptized).



Phase 2: Believing

An individual hears and, in faith, believes the gospel.



Phase 3: Acting

They physically undergo water baptism as a response.



The True Result

The physical water does not wash away the sin; rather, their **FAITH**—which is **demonstrated by the obedience of baptism**—is counted by God for righteousness.

The Anomaly Resolved

The Situation

The thief was nailed to a cross and physically incapable of getting water baptized.



The Intent

He publicly acknowledged Christ as Lord and asked to be included in the kingdom. His faith indicates he would have been water baptized if able to do so.

The Verdict

Because baptism is an expression of faith, and the thief possessed the requisite faith, the Lord counted it for righteousness despite the lack of physical water.

The Heart Attack Scenario

During the Lord's earthly ministry, someone believes the gospel and gets in line to be water baptized by John the Baptist. While in line, he has a heart attack and dies. Saved or not? The correct answer is **saved**. God sees the internal faith the precedes outward action.

Was water baptism required for salvation
under the kingdom program?

Yes.*

It is not that water baptism physically washed away sin.
It is that water baptism was a required expression of
faith that God counted for righteousness.