

Was water baptism required for salvation under the kingdom program? |
Rightly Dividing with David Reid

Q: Was water baptism required for salvation under the kingdom program?

A: Yes*

Mar 1:4 KJV - John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Luk 3:3 KJV - And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

Act 2:38 KJV - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Both JTB and Peter command water baptism for the remission of sins

The sense of those verses is that water baptism is necessary for the remission of sins

Mar 16:16 KJV - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Water baptism is presented as a necessary requirement

Luk 7:29 KJV - And all the people that heard [him], and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

Luk 7:30 KJV - But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

Rejecting water baptism was rejection of the gospel

Act 22:12 KJV - And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt [there],

Act 22:13 KJV - Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.

Act 22:14 KJV - And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

Act 22:15 KJV - For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

Act 22:16 KJV - And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Under the kingdom program, water baptism washes away sins

Luk 23:39 KJV - And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

Luk 23:40 KJV - But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

Luk 23:41 KJV - And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

Luk 23:42 KJV - And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Luk 23:43 KJV - And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The thief on the cross was clearly saved but he wasn't water baptized

Q: How can this be in light of the preceding verses?

1Pe 3:18 KJV - For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1Pe 3:19 KJV - By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

Was water baptism required for salvation under the kingdom program? |
Rightly Dividing with David Reid

1Pe 3:20 KJV - Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

1Pe 3:21 KJV - The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

“baptism doth also now save us”

The verse specifically says to those under the kingdom program that “baptism doth also now save us”

Baptism is clearly required

“the like figure”

“The like figure” likens water baptism to the ark

People who got saved were in the ark

But under the kingdom program to be saved, one must get wet

This is symbolic obviously

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

This makes everything clear

Water baptism does not put away the filth of the flesh

If I fall into a puddle of mud and I want to get clean, I can take a shower.

It will clean the exterior of my flesh

But I can't get in the shower and wash away the stain of my sin

The filthiness of sin is internal

Water baptism does not put away the filth of sinful flesh

Otherwise put in the OT wouldn't need to offer animal sacrifices – they could just take a bath

Rev 1:5 KJV - And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

What actually washes away sin is not water but the blood of Christ

What water baptism does is it provides the answer of a good conscience toward God

In other words, Peter preaches the gospel of the kingdom to repent and be baptized

If someone in faith believes the gospel of the kingdom, they then get water baptized

The water didn't wash away their sin

But their faith in the gospel as demonstrated by their water baptism, God counts for righteousness

The thief on the cross couldn't get water baptized

But if he could have, he would have

The thief on the cross acknowledged Christ as Lord and asked to be included in the kingdom

The thief on the cross had faith, and the Lord counted it for righteousness

Was water baptism required for salvation under the kingdom program? |
Rightly Dividing with David Reid

Ex. Someone gets in line to be water baptized by John the Baptist and has a heart attack

Q: Does God say (1) so close but too bad so sad or (2) I saw your heart and your faith, and I am counting it for righteousness?

A: The obvious answer is the second item

Q: Was water baptism required for salvation under the kingdom program?

A: 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