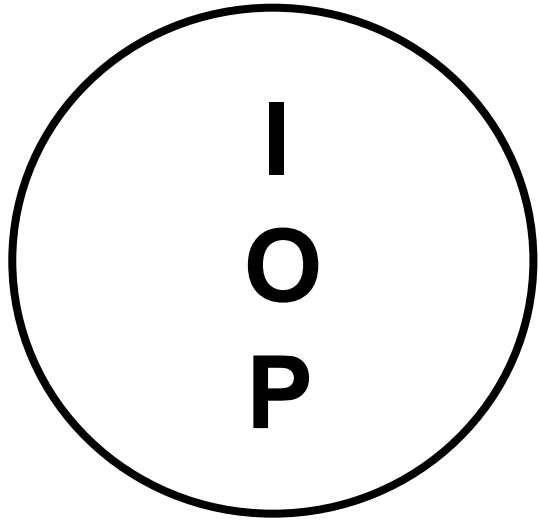
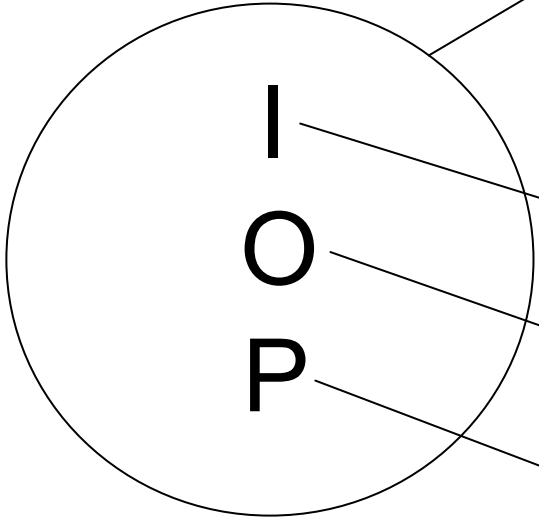


Baptism



In the Context of Community—Similar to the sacrament of Communion, baptism is a response of obedience to Jesus' command and is experienced in *community*. In fact, you cannot experience baptism by yourself; by its very nature it requires at least two people to walk through these waters. And because it is experienced in community it becomes a public declaration of one's faith in Jesus.



What does baptism *symbolize, affirm and initiate*?

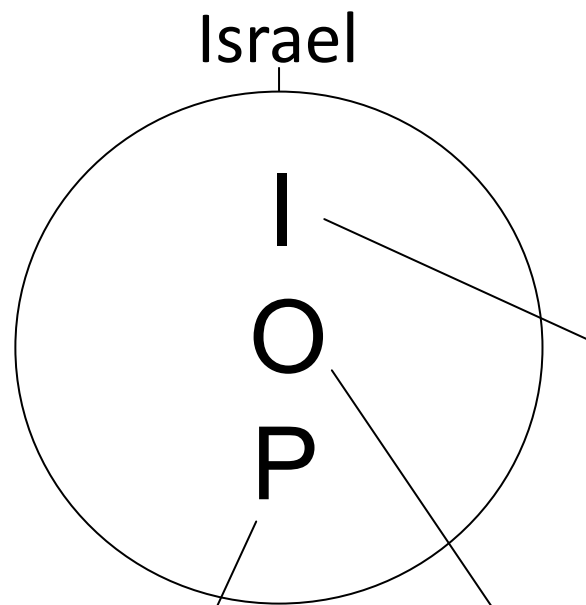
a new..

IDENTITY

OBEDIENCE

PRESENCE

The Story of Baptism Through Scripture



1 Corinthians 10:1-4— “I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.”

Identity

- Israel moved from an identity of slave to Pharaoh to an identity of the free people of God
- God was the One who initiated this change in identity and He did the work necessary for them to walk in this new identity (i.e. the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea)

Obedience

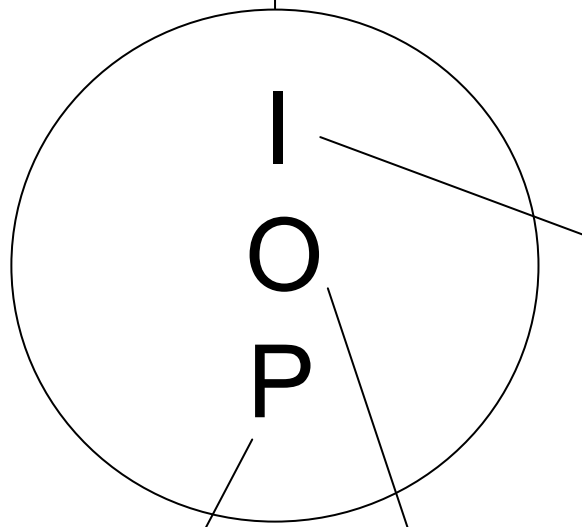
- Israel's allegiance shifted from Pharaoh's kingdom to Yahweh's kingdom
 - The Hebrew word for serving Pharaoh and worshipping God is the same word (“*abad*”).
 - Cf. Ex. 1:13—“So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel **work as slaves**” and 7:16—“... ‘Let my people go, that they may **serve me** in the wilderness”
- God gave them the Torah (Law) to guide and shape them in their new life as the people of God

Presence

- Israel's new life in the desert was made possible by the sustaining presence and power of God (i.e. cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, manna from heaven and water from the rock, etc.)
- The prophet Isaiah associates this sustaining presence and power of God with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit (Is. 63:11-14)

The Story of Baptism Through Scripture

Jesus (True Israel)



Matthew 3:13-17— “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased .”

Identity

- At Jesus’ baptism his identity is firmly established BEFORE he begins his ministry (Son of God)
- By walking through the waters of baptism Jesus identifies himself with the people of Israel as the true Israelite who has come to take away the sins of the world (Son of Man)
- Immediately after his baptism he is led into the desert by the Spirit where he is tempted and tested by Satan who repeatedly questions Jesus’ identity as God’s Son (He overcomes Satan’s temptations and remains faithful to his identity as God’s Son, thus proving he is the true Israel with authority to bring God’s salvation to the world—unlike the Israelites who failed to overcome the temptations in the wilderness).

Obedience

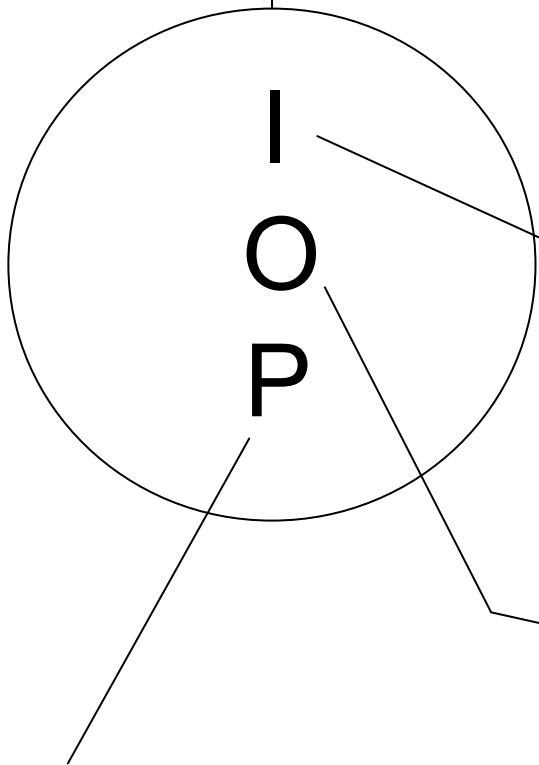
- His baptism was a step of obedience (cf. Mt. 3:15, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”)
- In the wilderness (after his baptism) he proved that his allegiance was to his Father kingdom and not to Satan or any other kingdom of the world
- Jesus lived a life of obedience to the Father and shows us the pathway of obedience we are to walk in as God’s children (Jn. 15:10, “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”)

Presence

- At Jesus’ baptism the Holy Spirit descends on him and *remains* on him showing that he is the One who baptizes not only with water, but also the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn. 1:32)
- It wasn’t until Jesus received the Holy Spirit that he began his formal ministry—all that Jesus did in his ministry on earth was by the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk.4:14-15)

The Story of Baptism Through Scripture

Us (New Israel)



Romans 6:3-8— “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him ”

Identity

- Baptism symbolizes that we are “in Christ” and therefore God’s children (cf. Jn 1:12-13)
- Because we have been baptized into Christ, the words the Father spoke over Jesus at his baptism are now spoken over us (“You are my son [daughter] whom I love...”)
- When Satan (and others) come to question our identity as God’s children, we can point to our baptism as a record of our new identity
- To be baptized is to declare that Christ is our primary marker of identity (“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”—Galatians 3:27-28).

Obedience

- Our allegiance has shifted from the kingdom of this world (Satan and Sin) to God’s kingdom
- We no longer serve our old master of sin and death, but are free to live out our new identity as God’s children in obedience to our Father (just like Jesus!)
- At the very heart of baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus’ command given in the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20)

Presence

- Just like Jesus, our life as God’s children is lived by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within us
- Our new identity and life of obedience can only be lived *with* God and by His power, which is why He gives us the Holy Spirit; if baptism symbolizes our new identity as God’s children then it has to include the Spirit because you can’t become a child of God apart from the work and presence of the Spirit (a Spirit-filled life *is* the Christian life)
 - 1 Cor. 12:13, “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”
 - Rm. 8:15, “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...”

The Story of Baptism Through Scripture

Israel

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Jesus (True Israel)

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Us (New Israel)

Identity
Obedience
Presence