

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Luke 3: 15-18

Introduction: As we continue our study of the ministry of John the Baptist we soon encounter two important things: one is a message and one is a divine example. The message concerns the specific ministry of Jesus and the way in which it contrasts with John's baptism. The example is that Jesus Himself came to the waters of the Jordan to undergo a baptism of repentance. Let us see what the Scriptures tell us:

I. Understanding Typology in the Bible

Before we can proceed with the exegesis of the text we must pause and define some specific terms. We are dealing with "types" here and we must be clear about "typology" as it relates to Scripture.

- A. Defined: A type is a real, exalted happening in history which was divinely ordained by the omniscient God to be a prophetic picture of the good things which he purposed to bring to fruition in Christ Jesus.
(www.christiancourier.com)
- B. Avoiding extremes:
 - 1. Only those things that the Bible specifically calls "types"
 - 2. Anything we think might be symbolic
- C. A deeper understanding is grasping those events and objects in Scripture that specifically relate to unseen spiritual realities.

II. The Significance of the Jordan River in the History of Israel & the Church

- A. Joshua 1:1-6
 - 1. Moses ("taken out of the water") is dead
 - 2. The conquest of Canaan falls to Joshua ("Yehoshua--Savior")
 - 3. Cross the Jordan to the land I am giving you (the land of promise & rest)
- B. Hebrews 4:8-10
 - 1. If Joshua had given them rest He would not have spoken of another day after that
 - 2. There remains a sabbath rest for the people of God
 - 3. The one who enters His rest has rested from his [own] works
 - 4. John & Jesus at the Jordan
 - a. The last prophet of the old era; the Forerunner of a new era
 - b. The Jordan is a place of decision and a great step of faith
rocks in and rocks out, death and resurrection

III. Spiritual Application for Our Christian Experience

- A. The deeper meaning of repentance (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, Ch.9)
- B. Jesus's genuine denial of the self life (death to self) and resurrection
- C. The empowerment for service AND holiness

Conclusion: The Jordan, for us, is the place where we recognize our inability to accomplish the will of God or to live holy, godly lives in the power of our own strength. It is the place where we die to the self-life as we offer our bodies up to God as a living sacrifice. It is the place of the baptism of the Holy Spirit for life and service. Have you crossed the Jordan into the Land of Promise and the Rest of God?

Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ, John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. "His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people.

Luke 3: 15-18 (NASB)

Memory Verse

John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Luke 3: 16 (NASB)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define the word “Type” in your own words.
2. Name some types in the Bible that are especially meaningful to you and share why.
3. What is the significance of Joshua and Moses in the history of Israel?
4. What does the Promised Land represent to the Israelites? To the Church?
5. What does the writer of Hebrews mean when he says that Joshua did not give them rest?
6. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be baptized by John the Baptist?
7. Why did the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus at His baptism? Was He not already indwelt by the Holy Spirit?
8. In what way is Jesus a forerunner for us in our spiritual life with respect to His baptism?
9. For your own consideration: Do you believe that you have “crossed the Jordan” in your own life?

NOTES

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