

SUMMARY: The Ephesians were baptized by John's baptism unto repentance after the day of Pentecost and were rebaptized by the Christian baptism of repentance because it was after the day of Pentecost.

REBAPTISM

Acts 19:1-6: And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, and he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "In to what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit come on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. See Acts 18: 24-28 regarding Apollos.

These people were rebaptized after being baptized by John's baptism. Numerous people such as Jesus and the Apostles were likely baptized by John's baptism and were not rebaptized. They were asked if they received the Holy Spirit (w/o specifying ordinary or special measure) and had not heard of receiving the Holy Spirit. They were rebaptized and received a special measure of the Holy Spirit by Paul's laying hands on them.

It is likely that they were rebaptized because they were baptized by John's obsolete baptism after the day of Pentecost, and needed a "Christian" baptism. It is specifically stated that John's baptism was unto repentance (Mark 1:4) whereas Paul rebaptised them with a baptism "of repentance" (Acts 19:1-6). NASV.

BACKGROUND

Luke 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but there cometh he that is mightier than I, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and (in) fire: 3:17 whose fan is in his hand, thoroughly to cleanse his threshing-floor, and to gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire. 3:18 With many other exhortations therefore preached the good tidings unto the people; 3:19 but Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias his brother's wife, and for all the evil things which Herod had done, 3:20 added this also to them all, that he shut up John in prison. 3:21 Now it came to pass, when all the people were baptized, that, Jesus also having been baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form, as a dove, upon him, and a voice came out of heaven, Thou art my beloved Son: in thee I am well pleased. (ASV)

Matt 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not arisen a greater than John the Baptist: yet he that is but little in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 1:2 Even as it is written in Isaiah the prophet, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, Who shall prepare thy way. 1:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ye ready the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight; 1:4 John came, who baptized in the wilderness and preached the **baptism of repentance unto remission of sins.**

OLD TESTAMENT CLEANSINGS WITH WATER

Lev 15:5 And whosoever toucheth his bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. (ASV)

Lev 15:6 And he that sitteth on anything whereon he that hath the issue sat shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. (ASV)

Lev 15:7 And he that toucheth the flesh of him that hath the issue shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. (ASV)

Lev 15:8 And if he that hath the issue spit upon him that is clean, then he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. (ASV)

Lev 15:10 And whosoever toucheth anything that was under him shall be unclean until the even: and he that beareth those things shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. (ASV)

Lev 15:11 And whomsoever he that hath the issue toucheth, without having rinsed his hands in water, he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. (ASV)

Lev 15:12 And the earthen vessel, which he that hath the issue toucheth, shall be broken; and every vessel of wood shall be rinsed in water. (ASV)

Lev 15:13 And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue, then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes; and he shall bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean. (ASV)

INTERESTING POINTS

1. John 1:19 Was officially recognized by the priests, Pharisees and Levites of Jerusalem.
2. No one seemed surprised that he was suddenly baptizing. Apparently, the Jews had already been baptizing Gentiles into the Jewish religion (Pictorial Bible Dictionary, p. 438)

TOPICAL STUDIES

JOHN'S BAPTISM



3. "Baptism" is a transliteration from the Greek because King James was christened and the scholars did not want to offend him by translating the Bible as immersed
4. John was not a Baptist or a Christian, he lived and died a Jew.