

Difficult Texts Examined

"Saved By Water"

(1 Peter 3:20-21)

- Introduction:
1. In the face of much opposition coming from the religious world, this passage stands begging to be addressed.
 2. Baptism is not an event in which one who is saved engages, but an event in which one engages to be saved.
 3. This lesson is designed to demonstrate that God has used water all through history to save man.
- I. The Israelites And The Waters Of The Red Sea
- A. (Exodus 14:21-31).
 - B. This water saved them from the Egyptian Army.
 - C. It also separated them from slavery and bondage.
- II. Naaman And The Waters Of The Jordan River
- A. (2 Kings 5:14-17).
 - B. By dipping in the water in obedience to God, Naaman was cured of his diseased body.
 - C. He was given a new body — flesh as a baby's flesh.
- III. Noah And The Waters Of The Flood
- A. (Genesis 6-7).
 - B. (1 Peter 3:20).
 - C. The waters of the flood destroyed the wicked.
 - D. The waters of the flood separated Noah from the wicked, and gave them a new life.
- IV. Ourselves And The Waters Of Baptism
- A. (1 Peter 3:20-21).
 - B. Like the Israelites – in the waters of baptism we become victorious, and are no longer slaves.
 - C. Like Naaman – in the waters of baptism, we become born again (John 3:3-5).
 - D. Like Noah – in the waters of baptism, we are given a new life (romans 6:4).
- Conclusion:
1. In none of the above cases is the saving power in the water, itself.
 2. All would agree that the saving power is in God.
 3. But it is clear that God, throughout history, has chosen to use water as an instrument in His hand to bring about salvation.
 4. Therefore, it should come as no great surprise that God connects water with our salvation today.
 5. Do you want salvation? "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16).