

## BAPTISM

Sign of the New Covenant

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<sup>6</sup> But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

<sup>7</sup> For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

<sup>8</sup> For finding fault with the them, He says,  
 "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,  
 WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT  
 WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND THE HOUSE OF JUDAH,

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<sup>9</sup> NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS  
 ON THE DAY I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND  
 TO BRING THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT;  
 FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT,  
 AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD.  
<sup>10</sup> FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT WHICH I WILL MAKE WITH THE  
 HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, DECLARES THE LORD:  
 I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS,  
 AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS.  
 AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD,  
 AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

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<sup>11</sup> AND THEY WILL NOT TEACH, EACH ONE HIS FELLOW  
 CITIZEN,  
 AND EACH ONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE  
 LORD,'  
 FOR THEY WILL ALL KNOW ME,  
 FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM.  
<sup>12</sup> FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TOWARD THEIR  
 INIQUITIES,  
 AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

(Hebrews 8:6-12)

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### The New Covenant Sign

- covenants are enacted with a symbolic, initiating oath-sign (e.g. wedding ring)
- the sign of the old covenant was circumcision of male children on the eighth-day
- the "new covenant" requires a new, initiating oath-sign – *baptism*

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### The New Covenant Sign

Q: What does water baptism signify?

<sup>11</sup> and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (Colossians 2:11-12)

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## The New Covenant Sign

Q: What does water baptism signify?

- it signifies a believer's union with Christ, and all the benefits that result from that union
  - forgiveness (washing away) of sin completely
  - new life – resurrected life of the new creation
  - belonging to God's new covenant people

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## The New Covenant Sign

Baptism is a church's act of affirming and portraying a believer's union with Christ by immersing him or her in water, and a believer's act of publicly identifying him or herself with Christ and His people, thereby uniting a believer to the church and marking off him or her from the world.

(Bobby Jamieson, *Understanding Baptism*)

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