



Foundations

Hebrews 6
'Water Baptism'

WATER BAPTISM – OLD TESTAMENT TYPES

*Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink
or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day –
things which are a mere shadow of what is to come;
but the substance belongs to Christ. (Col 2:16-17)*

The Old Testament contains many types and shadows – objects or historical events that pre-figure greater spiritual truths or realities that are made known in and through Jesus Christ.

There are two Old Testament events and one practice that the NT writers say are images, or types, or shadows of baptism in water.

Why is this helpful, or even of any interest to us today? Because in the stories and the practices set within the history of God's people, we can draw parallels, gain insights, and make connections that are richer, deeper, and that draw us into God's story from Genesis to Revelation.

For each of these images, look at the way the NT writer links the OT story with baptism, then consider the OT story. Try to identify any parallels with baptism, and ask yourselves the question, 'what does this show me about what baptism means for us today?'

1. Noah's Ark
 - 1Peter 3:19 – 22
 - Genesis 6:9 – 8:22
2. Passing Through the Red Sea
 - 1Corinthians 10:1-5
 - Exodus 13:17 – 14:31
3. Circumcision
 - Colossians 2:11-12
 - Genesis 17:1-14