

Redeemed Through the Waters of Creation Part 2!

Intro Song: "Jumpstart" by Alexis Saski

Intro Prayer:

- That we prepare our hearts to enter once again into the death and resurrection of Christ!
- That the Holy Spirit will assist us in renewing, and living out, our Baptismal promise of rejecting Satan, and this world of toil and idol's of flesh, to be born anew in the Spirit, and to serve God, by sharing the Good News with all of God's son't and daughters!
- For those who suffer, and are persecuted... may God's love, peace, and provision, rest upon them!
- For the conversion of sinners, unification of all believers into the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.
- For an end of abortion and the birth of a culture of life!
- Our Father...

How MUST one enter into the Kingdom of God? Through Baptism!

St. John 3:

[1] Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicode'mus, a ruler of the Jews.

[2] This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him."

[3] Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

[4] Nicode'mus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

[5] Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of

water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Notice the elements in John's Gospel!

- Jesus comes to be baptized in the Jordan - **Verse 1:29**
 - **Notice** how Jesus is exalted in **1:32 & 33**
 - Compare also **St. Matthew's** account **3:16 & 17**
 - **[16]** And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; **[17]** and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
 - Where?
 - **Verse [28]** This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.
 - **Same place as:**
 - Joshua crossing the Jordan to conquer Jericho - **Joshua 3:1**
 - Same place as Elijah who crosses the Jordan to be assumed into heaven by a **FIRERY** chariot (think of the pouring out of the Spirit by tongues of fire in Acts) - **2 Kings 2:8**
 - Jesus enters into the Jordan!
 - Remember the familiar elements:
 - Wind/Spirit - Dove
 - Water
 - Parting - this time it's the heavens not the water!
 - Jesus begins to call His 12 disciples - **1:35 & following**
 - They come to a wedding feast w/ the first SIGN in the Teverlah

- stone jars! - **2:6**
 - Water purification - **Num.19: 11-22**
 - **Verse [12]** he shall cleanse himself with the water on the third day AND on the seventh day, and so be clean; but if he does not cleanse himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not become clean.
 - **Notice:** John's Gospel - this event took place on the 3rd day (**verse 2:1**) but... it was also the 7th day since the last day counted in (**verse 1:43**) was the 4th day in the "next-day" chronology!
- After crossing the Jordan He & His disciples go and celebrate Passover - **2:13 & following**
 - Notice what get's cleansed... **Verse 2:15-22**
 - His "Father's House" ... why so the Gentiles (it was the court of the Gentiles) can also come to the Father and worship... to be in communion!
- Compare with St. Matthew's account in **22:15-22**
 - What is given to God... the most precious... the Image & likeness of God!
 - What is discarded... the vain image of man and the toil of false idols!

- **Jesus & His disciples go INTO the LAND**

[22] After this Jesus and his disciples went into the land of Judea; there he remained with them and baptized.

How MUST the people of God enter into the Promised Land? Through the Water & Spirit!

- **Notice the parallels & allusions with John's Gospel & the account of how God's "First-Born" entered into the promised land:**
 - Joshua leads the people to the Jordan (same spot) in **Joshua 3:1**
 - The people are told to "sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." **in verse 5**
 - They must make themselves ritually clean by Tevilah - a baptismal washing!
 - God the Father promises to exalt Joshua before all the people on the 3RD DAY **Joshua 3:7**
 - [7] And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.
 - Joshua calls forth the 12 Princes from the tribes! **Verse 12**
 - Joshua enters the Jordan!
 - The Priests bear up the Ark & part the water! **Joshua 3:15 & 17**
 - [15] and when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), [17] And while all Israel were passing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.
 - Joshua is told to circumcise the people & immediately after they are told that God "rolled away the reproach of Egypt..." **in verse 9**

- St. Paul in Colossians 2:11-14
 - [11] In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; [12] and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. [13] And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, [14] having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
 - **Notice:** the connection of entering into Christ's death (Romans 6), and being raised with him from the empty tomb!
 - **John 20:1** - the STONE is taken away!
- What happens next?
 - Joshua leads the people in celebrating the passover in **verse 10**
 - A Strange Angel figure stands with a sword to lead God's army into battle! **Joshua 5:13-15**
 - Joshua is told to remove his sandals for the ground he stands on is holy! Remind you of anyone... namely Moses & the Angel in the burning bush of **Exodus 3**.

- Then what?
 - The 7 are chosen in 6:4... these 7 Priest/ Levite ministers- leading the people by blowing the horns with the Priest's bearing the Ark... circling Jericho 7 times.
 - Notice what is Given to God & was is discarded from the spoils of Jericho...

Joshua 6: 18 & 24

- **[18]** But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction, and bring trouble upon it.
- **[24]** And they burned the city with fire, and all within it; only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.
- Think of **1 Cor. 3:9-17**
 - **[9]** For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

- [10] According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it.
- [11] For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- [12] Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw --
- [13] each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.
- [14] If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.
- [15] If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.
- [16] Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
- [17] If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.
- **Questions:**
 - Are NOT we now God's house?
 - Are we NOT made in His image & likeness?
 - Are we NOT the precious things given to the Lord? While all the toil of this world is discarded or burned up?

- Joshua with his 12 Princes, leading the people of God goes INTO the PROMISED land to take possession of it!

So how does one enter into the NEW promised land... heaven? Through the waters of Baptism!

- If there's time!
 - John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit! **John 1:33**
 - We see this in Acts 2
 - The 12 along with the Ark of the NEW Covenant are all together! **Verse 1**
 - The Spirit moves in the hearts of all gathered there & about 3000 are Baptized that day! **Verse 41**
 - Then the 7 are called:
 - 7 Deacons are called to assist the 12 in proclaiming God's Good news and

serving the people by assisting the 12
in **Acts 6:1-7**

- What happens?
 - With Peter & Paul, the 12, and the 7,
and counting...
 - They set out to concur the land...
 - to bring in ALL the other Son's of
God