

I Peter 3:21-22

An Antitype Concerning Water Baptism And The Resurrected Christ Who Is In Heaven

I. Introduction: An antitype is: “a person or thing that represents the opposite of someone or something else: 2 something that is represented by a symbol” (New Oxford American Dictionary).

A. The Greek, which we see in **I Peter 3:21** [ἀντίτυπον; “the like figure”] is defined as:

1. “Corresponding (“antitype”), that is, a representative, counterpart: - (like) figure (whereunto)” (Strong’s # 499).
2. “(1) a thing formed after some pattern; 2) a thing resembling another, its counterpart; 2a) something in the Messianic times which answers to the type, as baptism corresponds to the deluge [flood] (1Pe 3:21)” (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon).
3. Multiple translations, such as the NKJV, translates this Greek word as “antitype” in **I Peter 3:21**.
4. The terms “like figure” comes from two Greek words. Those are “ἀντί” [anti] meaning “opposite; contrast; etc.” and “τύπος” meaning “stamp; figure, pattern, etc.” (Strong’s #'s 473 and 5179).

B. A Scriptural example of this is found in **Hebrews 9:24-25**.

1. The holy place of old was made with hands, it was earthly, and that is where the high priest approached God for the sins of the people (**Leviticus 16:3** and **Ezekiel 42:13**).
2. It was the opposite of the most holy place of now as such is not on earth, but in Heaven where Christ intercedes for us (**Romans 8:34** and **Hebrews 8:1-6**).

II. Body: *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him” (I Peter 3:21-22).*

A. In verse 20 eight souls were saved by, through water. This is an antitype.

1. All flesh, aside from those saved in the ark, perished by water (**Genesis 6:17** and **Genesis 7:21-23**).
2. Now, baptism [immersion] in water is part of what saves (**Mark 16:15-16**, **John 3:1-5**, **Acts 2:36-41**, **Acts 8:5-13**, **Acts 8:26-39**, **Acts 9:1-20**, **Acts 10:44-48**, **Acts 16:13-15**, **Acts 16:25-34**, **Acts 18:8**, **Acts 19:1-7**, **Romans 6:1-7**, and **Galatians 3:24-29**).
3. Just remember, as this epistle established early on, salvation is at the end (**I Peter 1:9**).
4. Also remember, baptism is just part of what we do in obedience to the will of our Lord (**Matthew 28:18-20**).

5. Baptism is a response to the Gospel being preached (**I Corinthians 1:13-18**).

B. Side note, baptism is not a bath to remove physical dirt as did the priest of old with their flesh and garments (**Leviticus 16:1-4**).

1. Baptism is a washing away of sins (**Acts 22:1-16**).

2. It is a washing that regenerates (**Titus 3:1-5**); thus making one a new person (**I Corinthians 6:9-11**, **II Corinthians 5:17**, and **Ephesians 4:24**).

3. We know it is not the physical water either, but rather the act of obedience (**Hebrews 5:8-9**) wherein we gain the power of the blood of Christ to remove our sins (**Revelation 1:5**).

C. Responding to the Gospel and being immersed is an answer [inquiry; question] of a good conscience (**Hebrews 10:22**).

1. Now, with a good conscience, go forward faithfully (**I Timothy 1:5**).

2. See things differently than you did when you had a defiled conscience (**Titus 1:15**).

D. Baptism, the resurrection of Christ, what connections are there?

1. We have been begotten unto a lively hope by what? Not by the water we were immersed in (**I Peter 1:3**).

2. There is also the connection of the resurrection of Christ with what happens in baptism (**Colossians 2:10-13**).

E. Christ is now at the right hand of the Father (**Mark 16:19**).

1. In the position of authority He has now (**Ephesians 1:19-23**).

2. Until the end (**I Corinthians 15:20-28**).

III. Conclusion: Our Next Study; *“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God”* (**I Peter 4:1-2**).