

**Did you**

**know?**

***Baptism is a loyalty oath***

Laurence Smart

5-6-2016

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## Did You Know?

Does this verse say baptism is our salvation?

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an **appeal** to God for a clear **conscience**, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 3:21 (RSV)

Michael Heiser explains:

“The word most often translated “appeal” (*eperotema*) in verse 21 is best understood as “pledge” here, a meaning that it has elsewhere.”

Michael S. Heiser “The Unseen Realm”

Michael Heiser also explains:

“Likewise the word “conscience” (*suneidesis*) does not refer to the inner voice of right and wrong in this text. Rather, the word refers to the disposition of one’s loyalties, a usage that is also found in other contexts and Greek literature.”

Michael S. Heiser “The Unseen Realm”

## Did You Know?

“Baptism, then, is not what produces salvation. It “saves” in that it reflects a heart decision: **a pledge of loyalty to the risen Savior**. In effect, baptism in New Testament theology is a loyalty oath, a public avowal of who is on the Lord’s side in the cosmic war between good and evil. But in addition to that, it is also a visceral reminder to the defeated fallen angels. Every baptism is a reiteration of their doom in the wake of the gospel and the kingdom of God.”

Michael S. Heiser “The Unseen Realm”

### About Michael S. Heiser:

Mike earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Semitic Languages. He can do translation work in roughly a dozen ancient languages, among them Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Greek, Aramaic, Syriac, Egyptian hieroglyphs, Phoenician, Moabite, and Ugaritic cuneiform. He has also studied Akkadian and Sumerian independently.

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