

Did you

know?

Baptism is a loyalty oath

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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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