



# Revelation Hope for Uncertainty

## PROGRAM 11 - Revelation's New Life for a New You

### Message Summary

#### Becoming Part of the Israel of God

- To stand before God when Jesus returns, one must be part of **Israel**.
  - **Revelation 6:17, 14-16; 7:1-4**
- True Israelite identity is a matter of the **heart**, not of birth or lineage.
  - **Romans 2:28-29**
- Both Jews and non-Jews can become part of the **Israel of God** by belonging to Christ, who is the "Seed" of Abraham.
  - **Galatians 3:16, 28, 29**
  - Non-Jews become "fellow citizens" of Israel and the Israel of God through the blood of Jesus.
    - **Ephesians 2:11-14, 19; Galatians 6:15-16**
- **Baptism of faith** is the means by which a person becomes a true Israelite.
  - **Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:13**

#### The Purpose and Method of Biblical Baptism

- **Biblical baptism** is crucial for the forgiveness of sins, salvation, and entrance into the Kingdom of God.
  - **Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15-16; John 3:3, 5**
- Baptism is intended for those who have **repented of sin, put their faith in Jesus**, and have been **born again**.
  - The New Testament church did not baptize infants because infants cannot repent, believe, or comprehend the need to be born again.
- The **Biblical method of baptism is complete immersion**.
  - **Ephesians 4:5**: There is one baptism.
  - **John 3:23**: John the Baptist baptized where there was "much water."
  - **Matthew 3:5, 6, 16**: Jesus was baptized "in" the Jordan and came "up out" of the water.
  - **Acts 2:38-39**: Philip and the eunuch both went "in" the water.
  - The Greek word for baptism, "baptizo" means to immerse or dip completely under.
- The historical Christian Church for centuries used immersion, as evidenced by deep baptisteries, but later switched to other methods for convenience.
  - The Catholic Church shifted to infusion (pouring) after the twelfth century due to "less inconvenience."
  - This shift from God's plain Word for human convenience is on "shaky ground."

## Symbolic Meaning and Benefits of Baptism

- Baptism is significant due to its symbolic meaning and the benefits it confers.
- Through baptism, individuals become **part of the family of God**.
  - They take on the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
    - **Matthew 28:19**
  - They join God's family through the "new birth" of baptism.
    - **Galatians 3:26-27; John 3:5**
  - They become "God's adopted sons" through acceptance of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.
  - They join God's family through **marriage to Christ**, gaining security and care of God's love.
    - **2 Corinthians 11:2; 1 Corinthians 12:13**
    - God promises never to forsake or leave believers as He never changes.
      - **Hebrews 13:5; Malachi 3:6**
- Through baptism, believers **experience the death and burial of their old sinful life** (crucified with Christ) and **rise to a new life in Christ** through His resurrection.
  - **Romans 6:4-7**
  - These benefits are realized through **faith in the power of God**, not just the act of baptism.
    - **Colossians 2:12** by faith we are buried and raised with Jesus through baptism

## When Re-baptism is Necessary

- **Re-baptism** may be necessary in certain circumstances:
  - If a person has never been baptized by the **Biblical method of immersion**.
  - If a person has **turned away from Christ** and allowed a life of sin to take control.
  - If a person has **discovered significant new truth** they were previously unaware of or not following.
    - **Acts 19:1-7** (Paul's ministry where people received new light and were re-baptized).
- When one believes Jesus is their Savior, has repented and forsaken sins, and understands and accepts Jesus' teachings, **baptism should not be delayed**.
  - **Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 22:16**

Will you choose today to unite yourself in the saving work of Jesus through baptism, forsaking your old life and accepting the new life in Jesus?