



By Design  
Water Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

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Why was Jesus baptized in water? John certainly objected. The baptism of John was a baptism of repentance for sins to prepare the Jews for the coming of the messiah. As far as John knew, the messiah did not need to repent to prepare for His own coming.

The answer Jesus gave to John's reservations did not make any sense to John. "Permit it at this time for us to fulfill all righteousness." What did that mean? I do not think John knew what it meant but he trusted the judgment of Jesus and cooperated. Seeing the visible manifestation of the Holy Spirit and hearing the voice from heaven confirmed to John that he made the right decision.

John 1:32-34

32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.

33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."  
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John never would understand what the water baptism of Jesus meant. John died before the meaning of the baptism of Jesus was revealed to the Jews. The baptism of Jesus would not be clear to the Jews until after Jesus was crucified and Jesus rose from the dead.

The baptism of Jesus in the Jordan river foreshadowed His death and resurrection. His baptism was the first prophecy that Jesus made of His death and resurrection. It would not be the last. If you read the gospels you will see that Jesus predicted His death and resurrection repeatedly.

John 2:18-22

18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?"

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"

21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

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Matthew 12:38-42

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.

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Matthew 16:21-23

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

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Jesus predictions about His death and resurrection were common knowledge.

Matthew 27:62-66

62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'

64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

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And His baptism in water was His first prediction of His death and resurrection.

Why is it so important that Jesus predicted His death and resurrection?

1. This prophesy confirmed the claims of Jesus that He is the Messiah. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the promise of a Messiah is clearly given. These messianic prophecies were made hundreds, sometimes thousands of years before Jesus Christ was born, and clearly Jesus Christ is the only person who has ever walked this earth to fulfill them.

In fact, from Genesis to Malachi, there are over 300 specific prophecies detailing the coming of this Anointed One. In addition to prophecies detailing His virgin birth, His birth in Bethlehem, His birth from the tribe of Judah, His lineage from King David, His sinless life, and His atoning work for the sins of His people, the death and resurrection of the Jewish Messiah was, likewise, well documented in the Hebrew prophetic Scriptures long before the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ occurred in history.

The death and resurrection of the messiah is foretold in Ps. 22; Isaiah 53; and Ps. 16:10

Psalms 22:15-18

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.  
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Isaiah 53:3-7

3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

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Psalms 16:10

10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

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Jesus claimed He was the messiah. He predicted His death and resurrection to confirm it.

## 2. This prophesy confirmed the character of Jesus that He loved mankind

This is Memorial Day weekend. On this weekend we remember those soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom as Americans.

Jesus said there is no greater love than one that lays down his life for his friends.

John 15:12-13

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

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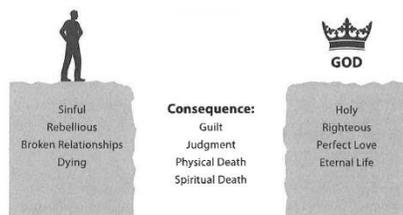
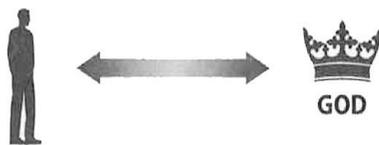
Jesus called us friends while we were His enemies.

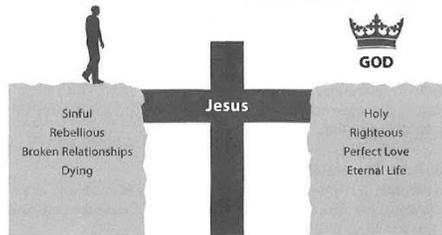
Romans 5:8-9

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

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Our soldiers enter combat without knowing their fate but willing to die.

Jesus came to earth knowing his fate and died for us even though we were his enemies. His predictions of his death and resurrection reveals His love for mankind and His love for you.

### 3. This prophesy confirmed the call of Jesus for His followers to be baptized

After his death and resurrection and before his ascension, Jesus called all that follow Him to be baptized.

[Matthew 28:18-20](#)

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

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Every time someone professes faith in Jesus, Jesus calls them to be baptized. Through baptism they are declaring their faith that just as Jesus died and rose again, I will die and rise again.

Therefore, Peter preached baptism in Acts 2:38-39

[Acts 2:38-39](#)

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."  
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Paul said...

Romans 10:9

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

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The way you confess with your mouth is through water baptism.

Professing you believe in Jesus without being baptized is like professing you want to get married but you are unwilling to go through the wedding ceremony.

Professing you believe in Jesus without being baptized is like professing you want to be an American citizen but you are unwilling to raise your right hand and pledge yourself to uphold the constitution of the United States.

These truths call for a response.

- Receive Jesus as your messiah and follow Him in Baptism.
- Go make disciples.