

THE MYSTERIES OF BAPTISM & CHRISMATION

1. The Meaning of the term CHRISTIAN

a) given in Antioch, as we can see in Acts 11, 26

b) deriving from the name CHRISTOS: FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

* CHRISTOS= Anointed One, the real:

+ King

+ Prophet

+ Priest

* CHRISTIANS= people who believe Jesus to be the only:

+ King=Master

+ Prophet=Teacher

+ Priest=High Priest

= the anointed ones who are:

- "clothed with Christ"

- "live in Christ"

* because Christos is from heaven, those who follow Him must be "born of heaven", or "from above"

2. How Did They Become Christians

a) Faith, Repentance and Baptism

* see Acts 2, 38

b) Baptism is:

* Death and Resurrection

+ objective salvation: the Death of Resurrection of Jesus Christ

+ subjective salvation: our mystical participation in the Death and Resurrection of Christ

+ see Romans 6, 3-9

* The "Grafting" to abide

+ Jesus is the Vine, the new human nature

+ the Mystery of Baptism is the grafting of the wild branches unto the Vine, thus receiving new life

+ see John 15, 4-5

+ see 1 Corinthians 12, 3

* It is a Mystical Experience

+ an invisible transformation takes place, yet it is a real transformation

+ the ritual is the visible pointer

+ see John 3, 3-12

c) The consequences of Baptism:

* A first and second dying:

+ the first: our death with him on the cross

+ the second: our daily dying to sin

(see Colossians 2,12 & 3,5)

* A resurrection of righteousness:

+ a new birth

+ a new life with Christ

(see Romans 6,4)

* An intimate and continual communion with God:

+ the beginning of communion with God

+ the beginning of eternal life
(see 1 Peter 3,21)

d) The Children were baptized also

- * Apostle Peter tells us that God's promise is "to you and your children..."(see Acts 2,39)
- * the Bible tells us that households were baptized
 - + see 1 Corinthians 1,16
 - Acts 16,15
 - Acts 16,34
- * the Bible does not give us any record of older children being baptized
- * the Bible talks about Baptism as the fulfillment of Circumcision
 - + children were circumcised to become part of Israel
 - see Genesis 17,12
 - + the Baptism is the "circumcision of the heart"
 - see Colossians 2, 11-12
 - + children are also baptized to become part of New Israel
- * The miracle of the Red Sea is fulfilled in Baptism
 - + children crossed the Red Sea with their parents
 - see Exodus
 - + Apostle Paul clearly sees the Red Sea as a foreshadowing of Baptism
 - see 1 Corinthians 10, 1-4
 - + Children crossed "the mystical Red Sea of Baptism"
- * All people are born with the original corruption and they need to be "grafted" unto the incorruptible human nature of Christ
 - + see Romans 5,12 & 3,10
 - Romans 5,15
 - Romans 5,19
 - + the Church taught that man experienced the mystery of the original fall, and then the mystery of Salvation

3. The Mystery of Chrismation

- a) promised in the Old Testament
 - * see Joel 2,28
 - * Jeremiah 31,31-34
 - * Ezekiel 36, 25-27
- b) Jesus also promised the Holy Spirit
 - * see John 14,16
- c) those baptized received the Holy Spirit
 - * see Acts 2,38
 - * see Acts 8, 5-8 & Acts 8,12 & Acts 8,14-17
 - * see Acts 19,5 & Acts 19,6

4. The Baptism Rites in the Early Church

a) Inscription in "the Book of life"

- * the Godparent
- * the bringing of the candidate to the episkopos or the presbyteros
- * the Cathecumens
- * see Philippians 4,3
Revelation 13,8
Revelation 20,15

b) Renunciation of Satan

- * the meaning of the ritual

c) The Baptism itself

- * the consecrated water and its mystical dimension
- * the oil and its mystical dimension
- * the immersion and its mystical dimension
- * the taking off of clothes

d) The Chrismation

- * the Chrism
- * the seal
- * Christians: called to be:
 - "kings" in Christ the King
 - "prophets" in Christ the Prophet
 - "priests" in Christ the Priest

e) The Robe of Immortality

- * the symbolism of white
- * the symbolism of a new robe
- * the symbolism of putting on shoes
- * see Galatians 3,27
Colossians 3,10
Ephesians 4,21-24

f) The Procession

- * Paschal connection
- * anticipation of Resurrection

g) The Tonsuring

- * the sacrifice of
 - beauty
 - strength
 - own protection in exchange for God's protection

h) The Eucharist

- * the spiritual food needed by all
- * not conditioned by age of:
 - understanding
 - accountability