EXPOSING INFANT BAPTISM, REVEALING BELIEVERS IMMERSION

Part 1

WE INFORM – YOU CHOOSE

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Preface

YHWH “God” has called us to do two things. First, we are to never give up studying and seeking the correct interpretation of any given Bible passage. Second, such opportunities are golden moments for us to learn to show grace and love to others whose understanding of a given passage may differ from ours.

Throughout the HRTI’s teachings, we use a slightly different vocabulary to that which some might be accustomed. We have chosen to use what many refer to as a Messianic vocabulary. The reasons being: Firstly, using Hebraic-sounding words is another way to help you associate with the Hebraic Roots of your faith. Secondly, these words are not merely an outward show for us, they are truly an expression of who we are as Messianic Jews and Gentiles who have “taken hold” of our inheritance with Israel.

Instead of saying "Jesus," we call our Saviour "Y’shua," the way His parents would have addressed Him in Hebrew. In addition, rather than referring to Y’shua as “Christ,” we use the word "Messiah," which is an Anglicized version of the Hebrew word, Moshiach.

"YaHoVaH" is the name of God in Hebrew, where it is written as four consonants (YHWH or YHVH, as the W and V is derived from the same Hebrew letter ‘Vav’). These four letters are called the Tetragrammaton (Greek for "a word" having four letters). Jews ceased to use the name in the Greco-Roman period, replacing it with the common noun Elohim, “God,” to demonstrate the universal sovereignty of Israel’s God over all others; at the same time, the divine name was increasingly regarded as too sacred to be uttered, and was replaced in spoken ritual by the word Adonai ("My Lord"). From about the 6th to the 10th century the Masoretes, Jewish scholars who were the first to add vowels to the text of the Hebrew Bible, used the vowel signs of the Hebrew words Adonai or Elohim as the vowels for YHWH, and later on the artificial name Jehovah was produced. Christian scholars and translators after the Renaissance and Reformation periods replaced the sacred name YHWH with GOD and LORD (all in capital letters in the Bible); which was a strategic move of Satan as to not using the Name. The Sacred Name occurs 6,828 times in the Hebrew text of the Bible, proving YHWH wants us to use it.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, biblical scholars again began to use the form Yahweh; and it is now the conventional usage in biblical scholarship, but leading Hebrew Scholars suggest YHWH should be pronounced as Yah-oo-VaH (Y'shua is derived from YaH-shuvah which means YaH saves. YaH (יה) is an abbreviation of God’s name YHWH as seen in Psalm 68:4. The Name is also found in the word hallelu-YaH, which means ‘you praise the LORD’).
Is Infant Baptism’s Origin really from Babylon?

Introduction

This Booklet will undoubtedly prove to you that baby baptism is of the most detestable pagan origin which the Roman Catholic Church adopted and which rolled into the Reformation Churches. You are about to be tested beyond capacity—and if you are not interested in historical fact, then do not read further…

The doctrine of baby baptism is a pagan practice and comes straight from ancient Baal worship. It was invented by Noah's great-grandson Nimrod and his wife Semiramus. Nimrod and Semiramus ordered the building of the tower of Babel. They also invented many other pagan practices, including human sacrifices.

This doctrine began to find its way into Christian circles around the beginning of the second century C.E. after more than 2,000 years it had already been in use consistently by pagans. The Roman Emperor Constantine then made it law in 416 A.D. The Roman Catholic Church eventually made infant baptism an official doctrine in 1547 at the Council of Trent. When the different Protestant groups—called the Reformation Movement—broke away from the Catholic Church, they kept the doctrine of baby baptism.

Baptists are not Protestants, period! The Baptists did not break away from Catholicism. The Baptists were before the Catholics. Since the time of Y'shua and the Apostles, there have been people who held to the Baptist doctrines. Many times, they have gone by different names.

Infant baptism is not a Scriptural doctrine. It is not found in the Bible. There is not one example in the Bible of one single baby being baptized and this will be proven to you. This man-made doctrine of baby baptism teaches that babies must be baptized because of original sin. If a baby dies without being baptized, it will go to hell. In fact, the Bible plainly teaches the complete opposite, that baptism is for Believers only—Acts 8:35-38.

The purpose of this Booklet is to set forth the dreadful reasons why infant baptism is responsible for sending more people to hell than any other religious error.

It is an appalling thing to baptize a baby and let him grow up believing that by "that baptism" he has been saved and is on his way to heaven. Fact: all babies and children below the age of accountability are protected by YHWH respecting their eternal soul based on Matt 19:14: "But Y'shua said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is
the kingdom of heaven." Do you really believe that any child below the age of accountability has ever gone to hell? Come on; reason logically—there is no differentiating between those who were baptized as infants and those who were not.

Little children certainly can come to Messiah Y’shua when they are old enough to understand that He died for them and shed His blood to pay for their sins. If that child is old enough to realize that he cannot take his sin to heaven, and that he is lost and a sinner, then that child is old enough to be saved. What age is that? I do not know. It varies from child to child. It depends upon the religious training environment a child is raised in, too.

Matt 19:14 is not teaching, however, that newborn infants are to come to Y’shua by being baptized by a priest! As stated earlier, little children who die in infancy are covered by the Blood of Y’shua and will go to heaven. They are thus ‘covered’ until they reach the age that they can understand the Gospel, and at that point they must trust Y’shua on their own, of their own choice.

You are about to embark on a journey that will change your view of churches forever. I will inform you in this Booklet, but ultimately you are going to choose what is wrong and what is right…

Who invented infant baptism?

One has to go back to Genesis 10 and 11 where we read of Noah’s Great grandson—oh that evil old Nimrod and his wife Semiramis, who started the great pagan Babylonian Mystery Religion at the Tower of Babel. This great pagan religion was later known as ‘Baal Worship’ in the Original Covenant. I want to encourage you to read this great book, Two Babylons by Alexander Hislop, which gives you a sound background on this Babylon Mystery Religion of ‘Baal Worship’ which was started by Nimrod and Semiramis. This is the root and origin of all false beliefs, paganism, and the occult. Baby baptism originated from here...

Babylon Mystery Religion

In this mysterious Babylonian Religious System, Nimrod and Semiramis—along with their priests, were the only ones who understood ‘The great mysteries of YHWH’. It included the Babylonian Baal Worship of Nimrod and Semiramis and was considered the only true religion, so all others were regarded as false. In this grotesque religion, only the Babylonian priests could forgive and absolve sins—and administer salvation, a

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1 Also known as the Old Covenant or Old Testament
2 You can download this book for free on the Internet.
counterfeit of the true way of YHWH. In this pagan religion, salvation could be achieved through various sacraments performed during the person’s lifetime. These sacraments were so-called ‘Channels of Grace’ whereby salvation could be achieved. These sacraments, necessary to salvation—began at birth with Infant Baptism, followed by other sacraments throughout life, and ending with a final anointing with oil at death to prepare one for the hereafter.

Now Since the Babylonian priest was the only one who could administer these ‘sacraments’, the person was ‘bound’ to the Babylonian system helplessly for life! The very first essential sacrament Semiramis taught was Baptism by water. The fact that such "baptism" was practiced 2,000 years before it was even mentioned and practiced in Christianity is an established fact, and it can be traced right back to Babylon and Semiramis herself! The ancient historian Bryant (vol. 3 p21, 84) traces this pagan baptism back to the practice of commemorating Noah and his 3 sons’ deliverance through the waters of the flood, emerging from the ark and entering a new life. To commemorate this event, the priests of Nimrod would ‘baptize’ new-born infants the fathers chose to keep, and they would become ‘born-again’ and become members of the Babylonian Mystery Religion. The fact that the Devil practiced the ritual of Infant Baptism for over 2,000 years before it was even used in Christianity has truly amazed historians!

From Babylon into Catholicism: then the Reformation and Christianity

Armitage’s History (p73) explains the pagan civil law and social customs of that day. It is known that these pagans had no standard of morality as you and I have today. Their marriage rites were not on the basis ours are. One man might be the husband of a hundred women, and he might be the father of several hundred children. Now, the mother had no right at all to determine whether the child she bore was to live or not—that was left up to the father. Just as the farmer would go down to the pigpen and pick out the pigs he wanted to keep and do away with the runts, so was the father the one who decided if the child was to be kept and allowed to live. The mother could not even name the child if it was kept—the pagan priest did that.

If the child was decided to be kept, the daddy would take it down to the pagan priest and the ceremony would be arranged. The Priest first must ‘exorcise’ evil spirits from the infant by anointing the baby’s head with oil. With the oil the priest puts the occult mark of Tammuz (which YHWH

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3 Hislop, Two Babylons, p134
hates on the child's head by marking a "T" with the oil. This "T" sign later become the 'Sign of the Cross' in Roman Catholicism's baby baptism. The Babylonian priest then put salt and spittle on the baby's tongue to preserve it from future influence of evil spirits. "Holy Water" is now sprinkled or poured over the baby's head, and the baby is said to be cleansed from any original sin and is now "born-again" and a member of the Babylonian Religion. This process was known as Infant Christening and was practiced hundreds of years before Y'shua, and is found nowhere in the Bible! There is not a single example of a baby being 'baptized' or 'christened' in the Bible, which of course will be proved later on in this Booklet! Knowing what you do now, would you want your baby christened?

This was called 'Baal Worship' in the Original Covenant, and YHWH called it an abomination!

**Constantine—the so-called "Christian"**

Emperor Constantine lived from February 272 – 22 May 337, and was a Roman Emperor from 306 to 337. Constantine believed that the Church and the State should be as close as possible. He converted in 313 to so-called "Christianity" of that day which accommodated a vast amount of pagan practices with it. After his conversion, Constantine was very tolerant of paganism—keeping pagan gods on coins in use and still retaining his pagan high priest title, "Pontifex Maximus" in order to maintain popularity with his subjects—indicating that he never understood the theology of true Christianity.

The professed conversion of Emperor Constantine in 313 was looked upon by many as a great triumph for Christianity. However, it was the greatest tragedy in church history because it resulted in the union of church and state and the establishment of a hierarchy which ultimately developed into the present day Roman Catholic system. Constantine's integrated Church and State, which was then called Constantinism, began having full sway in the empire with his conversion.

With Constantine's integrated Church and State, he made it clear that paganism was not outlawed. Although by now Constantine openly supported Christianity, the city still offered room for pagan cults: there were shrines for the Dioscuri and Tyche. The Acropolis, with its ancient pagan temples, was left as it was.

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4 Ezek 8:14-18
5 Hislop, p 138
6 The Dioscuri were worshipped as guardians/protectors of voyagers/sailors.
As for worshipping the emperor, Constantine's burial chamber gave him a “Christ-like” status: his tomb was between two times six sarcophagi, each containing relics of one of the Apostles. Constantine continued to engage in pagan rituals. The emperor still claimed to be a supernatural being, although the outward form of this personality cult had become Christian. During Constantine’s reign, the pagan practice of baptizing babies was still vividly practiced.

With the growing merging of church and state after Constantine, infant baptism eventually became a civil ceremony that held society together as a homogeneous unit. This age-old requirement of religious uniformity was seen as a guarantee of public peace and order.

**Infant baptism invades the Christian church**

At around the 3rd Century, traces of the Babylon Mystery Religion, what was and still is called Baal Worship, infiltrated the Christian Church. Immediately, Bible Believers rejected the idea of baptizing babies and Baptismal Regeneration—the teaching that baptism is essential to salvation; or, if you want to turn it around, that water baptism saves the soul (or at least is a part of a person's salvation).

These Bible Believers were slanderously labeled as 'ANABAPTISTS' because they rejected this idea of baptizing babies as pagan and not Scriptural. They would RE-BAPTIZE these infants when they got older and had trusted Y’shua as Saviour! Thus the term ANABAPTISTS—which actually means "RE-BAPTIZERS"! It was later shortened to 'Baptists'. Baptists got their name at this time, and the issue that started the name Baptists and separated them was this issue of 'Baby Baptism'!!!!! These 'ANABAPTISTS' were greatly persecuted because of this issue!

The Anabaptists held that the primitive church of the Apostles, the early Messianic Believers Body, had lost its purity and ceased to be the church about the time of the union of church and state under Constantine, and one dire consequence of this was the Edict of Innocent I (A.D. 407) which made infant baptism compulsory.

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7 Tyche was the goddess or spirit of fortune, chance, providence and fate. She was usually honoured in a more favourable light as Eutykhia, goddess of good fortune, luck, success and prosperity.

8 You find the Erechtheion on the hill of the Acropolis along with the other antiquities. Before the entrance of Erechtheion is an altar of Zeus which the pagans claim is the Most High. On this altar they never sacrifice a living creature but offer cakes, not being wont to use any wine either. Inside the entrance are altars, one to Poseidon, on which in obedience to an oracle they sacrifice also to Erechtheus, the second to the hero Butes and the third to Hephaestus.


10 Estep, The Anabaptist Story, 183.
Infant baptism now legislation in the Empire and Church

When Emperor Constantine made ‘Christianity’ the official ‘STATE RELIGION of Rome,’ as said, one of the first laws passed was the law decreeing infant baptism as the law of the land. That simply meant that everybody within a certain age limit had to conform to it. They passed the law that every baby in the Roman Empire had to be baptized at the hands of an authorized Roman priest! Those who disagreed and rejected it were soon slanderously called “ANABAPTISTS”; and they were persecuted without mercy for not conforming. Historian J.M.Carroll declares, “For 30 miles on the road leading out of Rome were stakes with gory heads of ANABAPTISTS...”

Slaughtering of Anabaptists

Occasionally someone will say, “Don’t you think infant baptism is beautiful to look at?” A.A. Davis replies, “If you knew the history of that doctrine, where it came from and the bloodshed that it brought into the world, you would never watch another such service in your lifetime.” (The Baptist Story, p67). He quotes historian J.M. Carroll from his Trail Of Blood: “no other doctrine that ever found its way into Christendom has caused so much bloodshed in this world as the doctrine of infant baptism.”

Armitage’s History (p71-73) tells us that in the 6th century, Emperor Justin issued an edict commanding all unbaptized parents to present themselves and their children for baptism at once. Leo III issued another edict in 723 C.E. (A.D.), demanding the forcible baptism of the Jews and Montanists (both groups Anabaptists). Toward the close of the 6th century, the baptism of infants was turned to gain in the form of fees paid for its administration; but, the charges soon became so enormous that the poor could not pay them. And yet lest their children should die unsaved, the frightened parents strained every nerve to get them baptized. He continues, “Suppose you owned a section of land with an oil well on it; you had a baby born into your...”

11 Kingdom Now, Dominion Now, Sons of God and The Anointed Ones are various Christian denominations which follow the exact same guidelines of Constantinism, by pushing that the church must take the world (state) over before Messiah comes. That is why these groups move closer and closer to Roman Catholicism. And by the way, “Anointed” is Moshiach (Messiah) in Hebrew and in Greek, “Christos” (Christ); and this is what Y’shua warned what will happen in the last days just before He comes: “And Y’shua answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” (Matt 24:4-5).
13 A Christian religious movement beginning in the 2nd century in Asia Minor that was based on the teachings of the charismatic prophet Montanus and was condemned by the Church as heresy. Its adherents believed in the imminence of the Second Coming, practised an ascetic lifestyle, and revered prophets and prophecy.
14 Armitage’s history, p71
You went to the priest to get the baby baptized. The priest would say, “I want the title to that section of land.” When the thing was over, the priest would get the title to the land and the baby would get a few drops of water on its head. He says this is how the Mother Church of Rome came to own Czechoslovakia, Mexico, etc. One is reminded of Peter’s words: “and through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.”

Do yourself a favour: go and browse the Internet to see for yourself how the Anabaptists (those who rejected infant baptism) were persecuted in ways almost too horrible to describe. David Potter, PhD, of Baptist Story, states many were put in a special iron casket called the Iron Maiden, which had dozens of sharp spikes inside. Or, for example, the 4th century Anabaptist preacher who was laid upon the ground and a horse was hooked to each of his arms and feet. Then the signal was given so the horses would pull the pastor into four pieces—why? Because he believed it was wrong to baptize babies.

He continues to state those Anabaptists had hot wax poured into their ears, or some had their tongues pulled out with hot pincers. The wives of the Anabaptists had their bodies mutilated in terrible ways, as parts of their bodies were cut off. Pregnant women had their stomachs ripped open and the offspring cast to wild hogs as husbands were forced to watch. One Anabaptist pastor was taken and his body cut open with ears of corn stuffed inside, and hungry dogs not fed for four days turned loose to devour the man’s entrails and corn inside. Simply BRUTAL AND BARBARIC!!

The ‘Holy Inquisition’ resulted from this issue of baby baptism

No wonder YHWH in the Book of Revelation declares in Rev 17:6 that this "Great Harlot", this false religion had become "drunk with the blood of the saints"! Historian and Bible commentator Sir Robert Anderson estimated that throughout the middle ages, over 40 million people were murdered and martyred over this one doctrine of infant baptism! To illustrate this great number of those Anabaptists slain, Anderson said if you lined 40 million people in a line, four abreast and four feet apart, and they marched

15 2 Peter 2:1-3
16 Potter, David (PhD). Baptist Story, p109
17 Baptist Story, p110
18 The Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition, commonly known as the Spanish Inquisition, was a tribunal established in 1478 by Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile. It was intended to maintain Catholic orthodoxy in their kingdoms, and to replace the Medieval Inquisition which was under Papal control.
by at normal marching pace, it would take 4 years and 4 months for this number of people to march by!!!

**Rome reinforced the law of infant baptism in their Canons**

According to the Council of Trent, Christ instituted seven sacraments and entrusted them to the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1131). These are Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Reconciliation (Penance), Anointing of the Sick (formerly Extreme Unction or the "Last Rites"), Holy Orders and Holy Matrimony. Catholicism teaches the Sacraments are important visible rituals that "Catholics see as signs of God's presence and effective channels of God's grace to all those who receive them".

The Roman Catholic Church considers baptism, even for an infant, so important that "parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptised within the first few weeks" and, "if the infant is in danger of death, it is to be baptised without any delay" (Code of Canon Law, canon 867). Another section of their Catechism declares: "The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church..." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1252)

The General Council of Trent, Seventh Session (1547) Canons on the Sacraments states:

(a) "If anyone, shall say that the sacraments of the New Law were not all instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, or that there are more or fewer than seven, namely baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, penance, extreme unction, orders, and matrimony, or that any one of these seven is not truly and intrinsically a sacrament - anathema sit."

(Note by author of this Booklet: Anathema is from the Koine Greek ἀναθήµα "something dedicated, especially dedicated to evil" from ἀνατίθηµι anatithēmi, "I set upon, offer as a votive gift". Originally meant something lifted up as an offering to the gods; it later evolved to mean: 1) to be formally set apart; 2) banished, exiled, excommunicated; 3) denounced, sometimes accursed; or 4) a literary term. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anathema_sit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anathema_sit)

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19 Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy teach that the consecrated elements of the Bread and Wine truly become the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Transubstantiation is the metaphorical explanation given by Roman Catholics as to how this transformation occurs. Some Christians reject the concept of the real presence, believing that the Eucharist is only a memorial of the death of Christ. - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucharist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucharist)

20 This is when a person wants his sins to be forgiven; he then approaches a priest who administers absolution, thus formally forgiving the penitent of his sins. True believers go to Messiah Y'shua for the forgiveness of sin.
(b) "If anyone shall say that the sacraments of the New Law are not necessary for salvation but are superfluous, and that without them or without the desire of them men obtain from God through faith alone the grace of justification, though all are not necessary for every individual - anathema sit."

(c) "If anyone shall say that by the sacraments of the New Law grace is not conferred ex opere operato, but that faith alone in the divine promise is sufficient to obtain grace - anathema sit."

Catholicism ruled that little babies could not be saved and go to heaven unless they were baptized

The Priests of Rome in medieval time taught (and still do today) that it is *not possible* for newly-born infants to be saved so as to enjoy the delights of heaven unless they are baptized. The Council of Trent Catechism states categorically:

"Infants, unless regenerated unto God thru the grace of baptism, whether their parents be Christian or infidel, are born to eternal misery and perdition."

What a horrible doctrine that is! What a contrast with the doctrinal beliefs of the Anabaptists who believe that all those dying in infancy, whether baptised or not baptised, are saved!

Lorraine Boettner, in his book *Roman Catholicism*, p190, writes, "The Romish doctrine was so horrible and so unacceptable to the public that it was found necessary to invent a third realm, the Limbus Infantum... later shortened to 'Limbo'... a place where unbaptized infants are sent, in which they are excluded from heaven but in which they suffer no positive pain. The Council of Trent and the Councils of Lyons and Florence declare positively that unbaptized infants are confined to this realm." Boettner continues, "The primary purpose of the Church of Rome in excluding unbaptized infants from heaven is to force parents to commit their children to her as soon as possible... the pressure put on members of the Mother Church of Rome parents to see that their children are baptized early is almost unbelievable... a commitment which once she receives she never relinquishes." (p191)

**Baby baptism and the Reformation Movement**

Consequently, the teaching of baptizing babies endured for more than twelve centuries until the Protestant Reformation, which was a movement that *broke away* from Roman Catholicism.
The Reformation started as a religious reform movement that arose in the 16th century. It began as a reaction to practices within the Roman Catholic Church that some held to be either unsupported by Scriptural teaching or simply corrupt with abuse of authority.

The movement ultimately gave rise to the various Protestant churches of today. Although earlier movements for church reform had arisen in Europe, the Reformation dates from 1517, when Martin Luther issued his Ninety-five Theses. Other Protestants, such as John Calvin, also spread the movement for reform and then ultimately the establishment of an alternative anti-Catholic church. This was fuelled by religious zeal, by the new spirit of Renaissance humanism, and by social changes arising from the growth of a prospering business class.

The Reformation Protestants brought baby baptism with them

The strange thing about these two diabolical doctrines of baptismal regeneration and infant baptism is that the reformers (Martin Luther, for one) brought with them out of Rome two dreaded errors: 1) the union of church and state, and 2) infant baptism.

Strangely enough, in those days not only did the Roman Catholic Church persecute those who would not conform to its ways; but after the Lutheran church that was formed by Martin Luther became the established church of Germany—and they persecuted the nonconformists to baby baptism as well. Of course, it was not as stringent and not in such numbers as the Roman Catholic Church before them. John Calvin in France, as well as Oliver Cromwell in England and John Knox in Scotland, stuck to the union of church and state and infant baptism. They used their power (when they had power) to force others to conform to their views.

Baby baptism then went from Europe to all countries

Two examples will be given: America and South Africa.

Unknown to a lot of people, this false doctrine came to the Americas well in the early days of its republic. Before the Massachusetts Bay Colony was twenty years old, the following was decreed by statute:

"If any person or persons within this jurisdiction shall either openly condemn or oppose the baptizing of infants, or go about secretly to seduce others from the approbation or use thereof, or shall purposely depart from the congregation at the administration of the ordinance after due time and means of conviction, every such person or persons shall be subject to banishment."

Religious persecution existed even in the early days of the United States of
America. Roger Williams and others were banished (when banishment meant to go and live with the Indians) because they would not submit to the doctrine of baptismal regeneration or the baptizing of infants.

However, it was the constitution of the Rhode Island Colony founded by Roger Williams, John Clark, and others—that established religious liberty by law for the first time in thirteen hundred years (over the world).

Thus it was that Rhode Island, founded by a small group of Believers, was the first spot on earth where religious freedom became the law of the land. The settlement was made in 1638, and the colony was legally established in 1663. Virginia followed as the second, in 1786.

Religion and politics were inextricably interwoven as soon as the Portuguese navigator Bartholomeu Dias (Diaz) erected a limestone pillar and Christian cross at the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa in the year 1488 C.E. Religious missionaries did not arrive in any significant numbers for more than a century, however. In 1652 the Dutch East India Company established a resupply station at the Cape, based largely on the experience of Jan van Riebeeck, who had survived a shipwreck off the coast of the Cape in 1648 and who later became the governor of the Cape Colony.

Dutch Reformed Church missionaries reported in 1658 that Khoikhoi slaves in the area attended their mission services (and were rewarded with a glass of brandy after the sermon).

Religious reforms swept through the Netherlands in the early seventeenth century, and the Calvinist Synod ruled in 1618 that any slave who was baptised should be freed because of the importance of baptism. In the Cape Colony, however, farmers who depended on their slaves refused repeated entreaties from the church authorities in Europe to free these slaves. Instead, the slave owners banned religious instruction for slaves, so none could be baptised.

The Dutch Reformed Missionaries strictly adhered to the Heidelberg Catechism. The Heidelberg Catechism is a Protestant confessional

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21 The Heidelberg Catechism was written in Heidelberg at the request of Elector Frederick III, ruler of the most influential German province, the Palatinate, from 1559 to 1576. This pious Christian prince commissioned Zacharius Ursinus, twenty-eight years of age and professor of theology at the Heidelberg University; and Caspar Olevianus, twenty-six years old and Frederick's court preacher, to prepare a catechism for instructing the youth and for guiding pastors and teachers. Frederick obtained the advice and cooperation of the entire theological faculty in the preparation of the Catechism. The Heidelberg Catechism was adopted by a Synod in Heidelberg and published in German with a preface by Frederick III, dated January 19, 1563. A second and third German edition—each with some small additions, as well as a Latin translation were published in Heidelberg in the same year.
document taking the form of a series of questions and answers, for use in teaching Reformed Christian doctrine. It has been translated into many languages and is regarded as one of the most influential of the Reformed catechisms. In its current form, the Heidelberg Catechism consists of 129 questions and answers. These are divided into three main parts: I The Misery of Man, II The Redemption (or Deliverance) of Man, and III The Gratitude Due from Man (for such a deliverance). Under II The Redemption (or Deliverance) of Man it states:

“74. Q. Should infants, too, be baptized? A. Yes. Infants as well as adults belong to God’s covenant and congregation.[1] Through Christ’s blood the redemption from sin and the Holy Spirit, who works faith, are promised to them no less than to adults.[2] Therefore, by baptism, as sign of the covenant, they must be grafted into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers.[3] This was done in the old covenant by circumcision,[4] in place of which baptism was instituted in the new covenant.[5]”

During the medieval and Reformation eras, infant baptism was seen as a way to incorporate new-born babies into the secular community as well as inducting them into the Christian faith.23

As you can see and from the facts derived, the doctrine of infant baptism has a long and bloody history—and it has been one of Satan’s chief weapons to condemn untold millions to hell.

The union of church and state continues today in most countries of the world. In these state churches, pastors and leaders christen babies—which means they “make them Christians” by baptising them. Thus the person that has been baptised as a baby believes he is on his way to heaven simply because he was baptised in infancy. Having been taught all his life that this saved him, he naturally considers himself saved by the act of infant baptism.

The Roman Catholic Church still teaches baptismal regeneration and practices infant baptism. Its statement of doctrine says:

“The sacrament of baptism is administered on adults by the pouring of water and the pronouncement of the proper words, and cleanses from original sin.”

The Reformed Church says:

“Children are baptized as heirs of the Kingdom of God and of His covenant.”

22 Heidelberg Catechism, question 74.
The Nerderduitsch Hervormde Kerk from South Africa says:

“*The principal parts of the doctrine of holy baptism are these three:*

**First:** That we with our children are conceived and born in sin and therefore are children of wrath, so that we cannot enter into the kingdom of God, except when we are born again. *This is what the dipping in or sprinkling with water teaches us,* whereby the impurity of our souls are signified, that we may be admonished to loathe ourselves, humble ourselves before God, and seek our purification and salvation apart from ourselves.

**Second:** *Holy baptism witnesses and seals unto us the washing away of our sins* through Jesus Christ. Therefore we are baptized into the Name of God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. For when we are baptized into the Name of the Father, God the Father witnesses and seals unto us that He makes an eternal covenant of grace with us and adopts us for his children and heirs, and therefore will provide us with every good thing and avert all evil or turn it to our profit. And when we are baptized into the Name of the Son, the Son seals unto us that He washes us in His blood from all our sins, incorporating us into the fellowship of His death and resurrection, so that we are freed from our sins and accounted righteous before God. Likewise, when we are baptized into the Name of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit assures us by this holy sacrament that He will dwell in us and sanctify us to be members of Christ, imparting to us that which we have in Christ; namely, the washing away of our sins and the daily renewing of our lives, till we shall finally be presented without spot among the assembly of the elect in life eternal.

**Third:** Whereas in all covenants there are contained two parts, therefore are we by God, through baptism, admonished of and obliged unto new obedience; namely, that we cleave to his one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that we trust in Him, and love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength; that we forsake the world, crucify our old nature, and walk in a godly life. And if we sometimes through weakness fall into sins, we must not therefore despair of God’s mercy, nor continue in sin, since baptism is a seal and indubitable testimony that we have an eternal covenant with God.\(^\text{24}\)

\(^{24}\) Nerderduitsch Hervormde Kerk, Engelse formulier vir die bediening van die doop aan kinders van gelowiges -

The Lutheran Church teaches that baptism, whether of infants or adults, is a means of regeneration.

Because of the following declaration, I believe the Episcopal Church teaches that salvation comes through infant baptism. In his confirmation, the catechist answers a question about his baptism in infancy by saying this:

"In my baptism. I was made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of God."

Most people who practice infant baptism believe the ceremony has something to do with the salvation of the child. These are abhorrent traditions of men, which should be despised in the strongest sense. We should follow the commandments of YHWH and none other! And Pastor, if you continue to lead your flock astray, the wrath of Almighty God will eventually be poured out on you; but if you do well and expose Satan’s diabolical doctrine you will be rewarded: “Shepherd the flock of YHWH among you, exercising oversight, not by compulsion, but willingly; nor eagerly for base gain, but readily; nor as exercising lordship over the ones allotted to you, but becoming examples of the flock. And at the appearing of the Chief Shepherd, you will receive the never fading crown of glory.”

The clear Biblical teaching of salvation

The Word of YHWH is clear regarding the matter of salvation. Y’shua said: "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of YHWH ... He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of YHWH abideth on him." Basically this tells us that there are two groups of people in the world today, those who believe in Y’shua and those who do not. Those who believe are not condemned; they have everlasting life. Those who believe not in Y’shua are condemned already, and they shall not see life, but the wrath of YHWH abides on them. I believe this is the clear, unmistakable teaching and language of the Bible.

Notice, the Word of YHWH never says "simply believe and be saved". No, it always seeks to identify the object of faith, which is Y’shua the Messiah Himself. John 3:16 says: "For YHWH so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." It is not enough just to believe; a person must believe "in Him."

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25 1 Peter 5:2-4
26 John 3:18, 36

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The Philippian jailer asked: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" The Apostle Paul answered, "Believe in the Lord Y'shua the Messiah, and thou shalt be saved." If a person is trusting in baptism for salvation, he cannot be trusting "in Him". Y'shua is not a way of salvation, no; He is the only way to salvation. We must trust Y'shua and what He did at Golgotha and nothing else. My friend, just because you were baptised as a baby does not and cannot save you!

**Babies not baptized go to heaven if they die**

The Bible teaches that babies are innocent and if they die, they go to heaven.

13. "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against YHWH. And Nathan said unto David, YHWH also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.
14. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of YHWH to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.
15. And Nathan departed unto his house. And YHWH struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.
16. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.
17. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.
18. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?
19. But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.
20. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of YHWH, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.
21. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

22. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

23. But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

In verse 23 David said that he would go to his son. David knew that his son, who was only 7 days old when he died, had not gone to hell, and that he would be reunited with him again someday. There is no evidence that David's son was baptised.

The definition of sin is to deliberately disobey YHWH. In order for a person to be guilty of sin they must willingly do something that YHWH says is wrong. A baby does not know right from wrong so he is not able to make the decision to do wrong. A person is innocent until they first truly know that something is wrong and they decide to do it anyway. At this time a person does not need to be baptised. Water baptism does not save us—it is only an outward picture of what has happened to us on the inside.

A person is saved by admitting that they are a sinner, repenting of (turning away from) their unbelief, and believing that Y’shua the Messiah is YHWH and that He died on a crucifixion stake to pay for their sins and arose from the dead by His own power three days later, and by openly confessing that belief to others: “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Y’shua, and shalt believe in thine heart that YHWH hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Only after this, when you are mature enough to understand it, is a person to be baptized. This is because of Rom 6:1-6:

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Y’shua the Messiah were baptized into his death?
4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Messiah was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

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28 2 Sam 12:13-23
29 Rom 10:9-10
5 For if we have been planted **together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:**

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

With the using of the *First Holy Sacrament* (Covenant Meal/Holy Communion) we **acknowledge publicly** what Y’shua did for us at the crucifixion stake. His blood that was spilled for us is represented by the cup that we drink, and His body that was broken for us is represented by the bread that we eat. In other words, as a Believer you must use these emblems to declare it publically that you accept Y’shua’s atonement work on the crucifixion stake.

With the *Second Holy Sacrament* (Water Immersion/Believers baptism) we acknowledge what Y’shua did for us at the grave. He died and rose again. The death of Y’shua at the grave is represented by going under the water. The coming out of the water represents His resurrection.

Here is a good test: ask yourself what happened first—the grave or the crucifixion stake? Did Y’shua first die and then He was nailed to the crucifixion stake, or was it the other way around? Of course, the crucifixion stake was first.

That is why you cannot be baptised as a baby, get reborn later, and then use Holy Communion! Because if you do that then you put the grave before the crucifixion stake! Baptism is to confess publicly what happened at the grave. That you bury the old man and walk a new life with Y’shua. In other words, you purified yourself in Messiah as Rom 6:1-6 literally says. Now please go back and read Rom 6:1-6 again; this time it will make perfect sense.

**Baptism facts**

Every single word in the Bible referring to baptism is 'baptizo' in Greek. Baptizo means 'submerge under the water.' Never was the word 'rantizo,' 'sprinkle' in Greek, used at any time with baptism in the entire New Covenant.

Peter and those that wrote the New Covenant knew the exact difference between *baptizo* and *rantizo* and used the right word at the right place as inspired by the Holy Spirit. Let us prove the point: read 1 Peter 1:2—it says *“sprinkling with the blood”* Here the word *rantizo* was used, and in the same letter further in 1 Peter 3:21 *‘baptism through the resurrection of Messiah’* baptizo was used.

Never in the entire Bible is there any reference to a child being baptised. We read and assume things into the Bible that are just not there. When we
read of Cornelius and his family being baptized, it is assumed that there were babies/children too. Be reminded that Cornelius was a centurion in the Roman Army. Listen what the encyclopedia Wikipedia says:

"A man who desired to be a centurion would have had to have been at least thirty years of age. Therefore, if he had entered the army at age 16, he would have spent almost half his life in the military, giving him the experience he needed so that he would know how to sufficiently command his cohort."

Only few became centurions at 30—most at a much older age of 40 when they gained battle experience; and most people were married before 19 in biblical times. Now work it out for yourself how old this centurion’s children would have been if he got married before 19 if he was an experienced centurion in his mid-thirties: yes—way past the age of babies!

**Historical facts on baby baptism**

There is no evidence of any infant baptism in the first 200 years after Acts in the Christian Church.

Hippolytus around 215 A.D. was the first to speak in favour of it.

"In the year 416 infant baptism was made compulsory throughout the roman empire by law."

"A roman catholic does not hesitate to acknowledge, that infant baptism is a human tradition"

Isn’t Y’shua our perfect example, so why was He baptised? He walked ±70km to set the example. Aren’t we going to stand before a Messiah one day that was baptized when He was an adult of 30 years—what will your answer be if He asks you if His example was not good enough?

Now listen carefully to Y’shua’s final instruction and take special note of the command:

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Believe what? Believe that Y’shua rose from the dead and publicly declare it through baptism!

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30 http://cnview.com/on_line_resources/infant_baptism.htm
31 http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/earlyhistory.htm
32 Mark 16:16
Christianity is separated from all other religions **because of the resurrection** of our Messiah, and baptism declares it! Satan is not dumb; he will try to erase this AT ALL COSTS!!!

**Conclusion**

The doctrine of infant baptism is not commanded in the Bible and is a horrible pagan practice.

The Bible says in Deut 12:29-32 that we are not to worship YHWH in the same manner as the pagans worship their gods.

"When YHWH thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou suceedest them, and **dwellest in their land**; Take heed to thyself that thou **be not snared** by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and **that thou inquire not after their gods**, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto YHWH thy God; **for every abomination to YHWH which he hateth have they done unto their gods**; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. **What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.**"

We as Messianic Believers do not baptize babies—do you?

Something mind-boggling is happening right now before our eyes! What can only be seen as a sovereign work of the Ruach HaKodesh is breaking forth as Christians around the world are working to restore the Hebrew foundations of Christianity. After being stained for more than eighteen centuries by Judaeophobia, anti-Judaism, and anti-Semitism, Christianity is being impacted by an unprecedented revolution of restoration. Scholars, clergy, and laity from virtually every nationality, ethnicity, and denomination are reconnecting their faith in Messiah Y’shua with its historical Hebraic roots.

**HalleluYAH**
We inform – You choose
Never be guilty of: "By your traditions you make the Word of God of none effect"

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. Proverbs 25:25
Thank you that we may minister to you from the Southern point of Africa

Contact us for Distance Learning in your Own Time from your Own House. You do it by sending your Assignments Electronically to us in either one of the field of:
Hebraic Roots (Y’shua centered Messiah Studies) or,
Midrashic Eschatology (Jewish approach to End-Time Events)
Certificate to Doctorate.

To find out about our other Products please contact us at http://www.hrti.co.za and click on “HRTI’s PRODUCTS”

That ‘narrow way’ is the path of Torah, which is the mission of the Believer … to continuously direct you to the Crucifixion.

"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters of Torah.

Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."

PLEASE BE SO KIND TO DISTRIBUTE A COUPLE OF THESE BOOKS AS PART OF YOUR TITHING

33 The truth of the Torah makes you see the mistranslations in the New Covenant. It’s amazing how you can look at the epistles of Rabbi Paul one way and it looks like he’s leading the body of Messiah away from Torah; when in reality, he’s leading them to Torah. A paradox of vantage point. Let us remember, the intent of the law maker constitutes the law. We need to walk a mile or two in our Hebrew Messiah’s shoes
34 Matt 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? Matt 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Mark 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition