

Study Sheet: Baptism in the Name of Jesus

A Biblical Perspective on the Proper Name for Baptism



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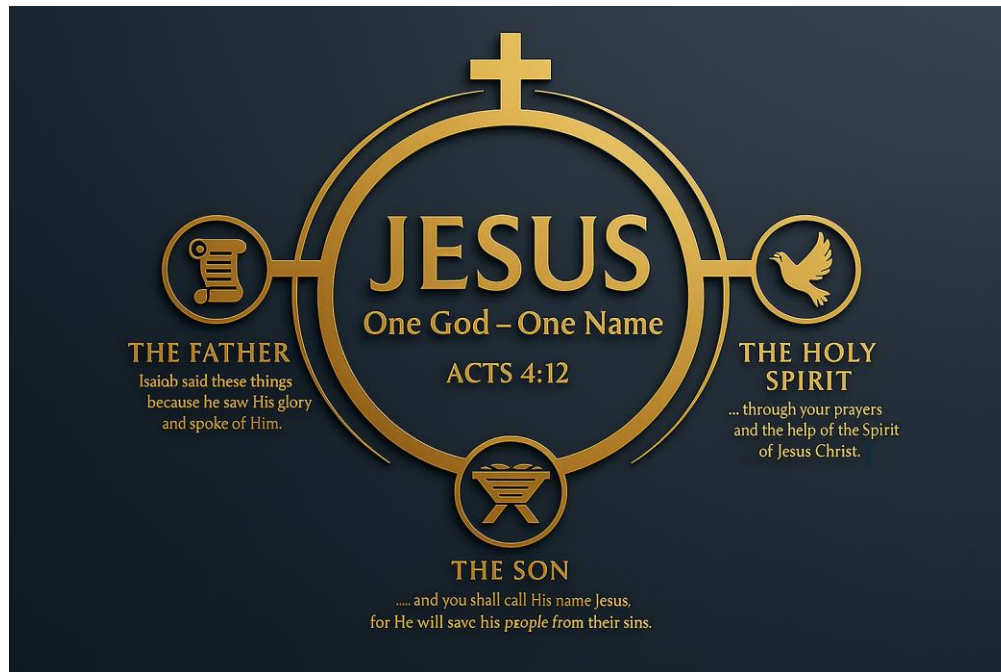
Introduction

This study sheet explores the biblical mandate for baptizing in the name of Jesus, challenging the common practice of using the titles Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It emphasizes the significance of God's **personal name**, the scriptural evidence for baptism in Jesus' name, and the theological implications of deviating from this practice.

1. The Great Commission's "Name" Language

- **Matthew 28:19**

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost..."



The Greek phrasing uses the singular λέγε (name), literally “into the one Name.” That points to one divine Name shared by Father, Son, and Spirit—later revealed as Jesus.

2. Peter’s Upright Example in Jerusalem

- **Acts 2:38**

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Here Peter explicitly ties the act of baptism to the Name “Jesus Christ”—not a formula of titles, but the personal Name by which salvation comes.

3. Samaritan Believers Receive the Spirit

- **Acts 8:12–17**

1. Philip preaches Christ and they “were baptized, both men and women, **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**”
2. Yet they had not received the Spirit until the apostles laid hands on them “that they might receive the Holy Ghost.”
This sequence shows:
3. Baptism “in the name of Jesus,” then

4. Reception of the Spirit—linking the Name to new birth and Spirit-infilling.
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4. Gentiles Welcomed by Name

- **Acts 10:47–48**

“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized **in the name of the Lord.**”

Context makes “the Lord” here a direct reference to Jesus (He had just been poured out on Cornelius’s household).

5. Disciples of John Re-baptized

- **Acts 19:1–5**

When the believers at Ephesus were asked about if they had received the Holy Ghost since they believed, and they said no, the first thing Paul did was questioned their baptism; the bible says: “When they heard this, they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus**. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them.” Even disciples who’d known John’s baptism **had to be baptized again “in the Name” to receive the Spirit.**

6. Theological Anchor-Verses

- **Romans 6:3–4**

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”

- **Galatians 3:27**

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

- **1 Peter 3:21**

“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us ... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

In each case, the believer is “into Jesus” by baptism—indicating that the Name matters, not merely the act of washing.

Why the Name Matters

1. **Authority & Ownership**

Being baptized into Jesus’ Name places us under His authority and marks us as His possession (cf. Revelation 2:17).

2. **Salvific Link**

Scripture consistently ties remission of sins, new birth, and Spirit-infilling to baptism “in the Name.”

3. **Unity of God**

Using the Name “Jesus” fulfills the singular “name” language of Matthew 28:19—Father, Son, and Spirit united under Jesus’ Name.

Conclusion:

Every New Testament example of Christian baptism is performed “in the Name of Jesus.” The early church never used a title-formula apart from that Name—and the apostles explicitly connect it with repentance, remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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Summary:

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