

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

3/6/2022 AM

Introduction.

A. I appreciate your questions.

1. Questions indicate interest and desire to understand.
2. We use questions to both learn and provoke others to think.

B. Jesus used questions (Matthew 16:13-15; Mark 11:29-33).

I. WHAT IS MEANT BY “THE SON OF GOD” DANIEL 3:25?

A. I would not make my answer a matter of faith.

B. Read the text: Daniel 3:21-25.

1. The king asked, “Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?”
2. The answer “They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.”

C. Vs. 25 is the background for our question.

1. Who is the fourth who is like the Son of God?
2. Some say he is Christ while others say it refers to an angel of God.

D. How can we come to a good answer?

1. Read Daniel 3:25 from the ASV “He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the aspect of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”
2. Note “a son of the gods” plural gods.
3. Nebuchadnezzar comes to this conclusion. He sees things through the eyes of his religion.

E. The king acknowledges the God of the Jewish children.

1. Daniel 3:26-30. Vs. 28.

- 1) He said their God had sent an angel.
- 2) The angel was different from the 3 boys.
- 3) He added Jehovah to his list of gods.
2. Angels are often used to accomplish God’s will.
 - 1) Gen. 19:1, 15; Exo. 23:20; Zech. 4:1; Job 1:6; Job 38:7; Luke 22:43; Rev. 2-3 (angel of the seven churches in Asia).
 - a. Note the word angel in verse 28. Angel is an Aramaic word meaning “messenger, ambassador” or one who “walks for another.”
 - b. The word God in verse 28 means “strong authority.”
 - 2) The king could not overlook the power displayed in the furnace.

F. The result (Daniel 3:28-30).

II. HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THE ERROR OF SPRINKLING?

A. The dictionary defines the word “baptism” as “sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.”

1. Many would agree with these definitions. The New Testament, however, reveals that baptism is a burial and a planting (Rom. 6:3-5).
2. One wonders how individuals could justify the practices of sprinkling and pouring for baptism if baptism is a burial.

B. One of the passages used to “justify” sprinkling is Heb. 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

1. Those who believe in the act of sprinkling as baptism say that this verse involves the cleansing of the heart when one is sprinkled in baptism.
2. It should be noted that two actions are mentioned in Hebrews 10:22.

- 1) The first action is outward, “our bodies washed with pure water.” This is the action of baptism, immersion in water (**Acts 22:16**).
- 2) The second action is inward, “our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.” When one is outwardly baptized, the heart is sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ.
- 3) This sprinkling takes us back to the Law of Moses. (**Heb. 9:18-22**).
3. When things were sprinkled with blood under the Old Testament, they were cleansed, purged, and dedicated to God.
 - 1) In like manner, when one is immersed into Christ, his heart is figuratively sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb of God.
 - 2) His sins are purged, and he is dedicated to God’s holy use.
4. **Hebrews 10:22**, all one must keep in mind is that the sprinkling is inward, not outward. It is the sprinkling of the heart, not the body.

C. Note the word sprinkling and the word baptism.

1. “Sprinkling” Greek word **rhantismos**: means to scatter over an object.
2. “Baptized” Greek word **baptizō**: “to immerse, to submerge” (Thayer’s Greek Definitions).
3. Two completely different words. Question: Did God use the word He wanted to convey to mankind?

III. CONCLUSION:

A. To summarize:

1. We cannot know for sure who the one “like the Son of God” might be.
 - 1) An angel sent from God or Christ Himself.
 - 2) I tend to believe it is an angel.
 - 3) Remember, this is not a faith issue.
2. Sprinkling is not baptism.
 - 1) Baptism is an immersion a burial.
 - 2) God used the word that He wanted.

B. A good heart searches for answers in the right place.