



## FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

Sabbath May 13, 2017

### BAPTISING ALL NATIONS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD



#### GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

JESUS SAVES ME BY HIS GRACE  
AND COMMANDS ME TO BE OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH

#### THEME SCRIPTURES

Lead congregation in repeating verses 2x:

##### [Matthew 28:19-20](#)

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

*Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, 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."*

*Romans 1:6 "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name."*

**INTRODUCTION:** In both Old and New Testament Covenants, salvation is by faith in the only name under heaven by which men can be saved, JESUS (also pronounced Yeshua), through the blood of the Lamb shed for remission of sins. God's people enter into His covenant, by obedience of physical circumcision as the token of the Old Covenant, and by obedience of Baptism in water as the token of the New Testament Covenant, that they will live their life for God.

## **2. REAL LIFE STORY: The Birthday Party**

As a young child of 9, we had moved once again for my father's business, and I started a new school. We would move again later in the year to yet a new town, but the few months that we lived there in town called Porterville, had a profound impact on my life.

School began and I made new friends. One day a new friend whom I especially liked, Mary, told me she was having a birthday party, and asked if I was a Christian because her parents would only let her invite Christian girls to her party. I told her that I thought I was because we went to church when I was little. Mary asked if I had ever been baptized and I didn't know so she said to ask my mother. Back at home my mother said I had not, so I carried the news back to Mary. The day after, I watched as Mary gave out her invitations, and when she came to me she could only say she was sorry but her parents said she could not invite me to her birthday party, and she could not play with me anymore. My heart was broken and I was numb.



I thought it such a cruel thing to do to a child, and perhaps Mary's parents should have handled the situation differently, but I was determined that no child would ever be refused an invitation to our house! After bringing up six children, inviting both believers and unbelievers alike to our home, I have seen the destruction caused by welcoming evil in, and I have learned the wisdom of Mary's parents. They understood the meaning of baptism being the obedient action of a believer entering into a covenant with God, to be separated holy unto Him; and as far as it was possible, they intended to keep their daughter unspotted and separated from the world; allowing her to be in the world but not of the world. Outreach is to be as the word suggests, "reaching out" in the world around you, outside the sanctity of your home where your family is kept protected and safe.

The next year in another school, a new friend took me to "Good News Club", and there I learned about Jesus, asked Him to be my Savior, and my life was never the same. It is amazing how Jesus takes all those loose threads, and weaves them into a beautiful life!

### **3. GOD HAS NEVER CHANGED, HE DESIRES OUR HEART**

**Hebrews 13:8** “*Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today and forever.*”

There is only one Lord, who spoke to Moses commanding him to circumcise the males of every household as a token of the old covenant between God and His people, and the same one Lord who became flesh, and spoke to His disciples, commanding them to baptize all nations in His name, as the token of the new covenant between God and His people to testify that they belong to Him.



**Deuteronomy 30:6** “*And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.*”

**Romans 2:28-29** “*For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: <sup>29</sup> But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*”

Neither the circumcision saved the person who obeyed the old covenant, nor does the baptism of the new covenant, but by faith was and is a person saved, shown by the obedience of the person’s faith in God who commanded them to do so. Jesus said for all people who believe of all nations, to be baptized, to wash away our sins, just as Ananias told Paul (Saul) when he first believed.

**Acts 22:15-16** “*For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*”

**Colossians 2:11-12** “*In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: <sup>12</sup> Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*”

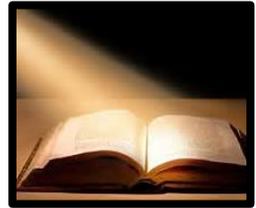
#### **4. GOD GIVES LIGHT TO ALL TO CHOOSE SALVATION**

Every unsaved person, is in a hopelessly lost sinful condition, unable to help themselves without our God drawing all men to Himself by the light of His word that was made flesh, and given for all men.

*John 12:46 "I am come a light into the world, that WHOSOEVER believeth on me shall not abide in darkness."*

*John 1:9 "That was the true Light, which lighteth EVERY man that cometh into the world."*

God gives the light of the knowledge of God to EVERY person born on the earth, enabling each one to choose, or not choose to receive that light, Jesus, who came to save them.



*John 6:44 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."*

*John 12:32 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw ALL men unto me."*

The light of God enables all persons who were ever born, **while yet unsaved and slaves to sin, the ability to choose to believe** and obey the Gospel, or to reject the word and be damned.

*Romans 6:17 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."*

*John 5:39-40 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." <sup>40</sup> And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."*

*1 Peter 2:10 "Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."*

## **5. THOSE WHO BELIEVE ARE ELECT FOR SALVATION**

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Whosoever means whosoever. Every person who is ever born has been given the light of the word of God enabling them make a decision to receive the word and be quickened to life by His Spirit.

**John 6:63** *"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."*

The Gentiles demonstrated that they had been given the light of Christ before their salvation, because they begged the Jews to come back to preach the Gospel to them before they were saved.

**Acts 13:42** *And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought these words might be preached unto them the next Sabbath.*

God knew every person who would ever be born before the world began, and in His foreknowledge, He chose those He knew would receive Him, "His Elect", who will rise up with Him at His coming.

**1 Peter 1:2** *"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God ..."*



**John 15:16** *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."*

**1 Corinthians 15:22-23** *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."*

## 6. JESUS COMMANDED to BAPTIZE ALL WHO BELIEVE

Before He ascended, our Lord Jesus commanded us His church, to baptize "all nations," a phrase the Church has always understood to mean "everyone." [Matthew 28](#) uses the phrase "all nations" in this way. All nations are to be baptized, regardless of race, color, sex, age, class, degree of mental or physical health, or education. Jesus makes no exceptions. And after they are baptized we are to teach them to observe all that Jesus commanded us to do.

[Matthew 28:19-20](#) *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

As ministers of this church we follow exactly as the scripture commands: by baptizing ALL persons in our church in the saving name of JESUS (also pronounced Yeshua), which **is** the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and, we teach all ages to observe all things our Lord commanded us to do in obedience to the faith.



[Romans 1:6](#) *"By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name."*

Jesus does not say, "Baptize all nations **except...**" Everyone is to be baptized. If we say that babies cannot be included in Christ's Great Commission, then **what other people should we exclude?** There is no specific example in Scripture of the **elderly, disabled, deaf, mute, teenagers** or **children** being baptized; so to conclude that all these groups are not to be baptized is absurd! Of course **all these were included in the "whole families" who were baptized immediately** when they believed, and of course included in "**all nations**". Babies are also set apart to be holy by the faith of their parents [1 Corinthians 7:14](#), and trained up in the way of the Lord.

[Proverbs 22:6](#) *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

## **7. OBEDIENCE OF FAITH IS NOT WORKS OF THE LAW**

Years ago we were in a church listening to praise reports when a man with great joy, shared that when a co-worker who told of his excitement at having been baptized, how he had crushed the man's enthusiasm, proudly informing the man that getting wet didn't make him any more saved than he was before! The pastor agreed, citing that salvation is not by the works of the law but by grace. But read on dear Christian to see that **scripture out of context does not establish truth, but rest your faith in the whole counsel of God.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10** *"For **by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** <sup>9</sup>**Not of works, lest any man should boast.** <sup>10</sup> **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**"*

Paul was instructing new converts, who were being grafted in to the Jewish faith, that the works required by the 613 laws of the **'book of the law', involving ordinances pertaining to blood sacrifices, handwritten by Moses**, were fulfilled in Jesus Christ who shed His own blood once for all. No longer could anyone boast like the Pharisees of how perfectly they followed the works of the law, because **the works contained in those handwritten ordinances** were nailed to the cross, and they were made alive by Jesus Christ!

**Colossians 2:13-14** *"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; <sup>14</sup>**Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailing it to his cross.**"*

Jesus made us alive in Him, free to obey Him from our heart of love.

**James 2:22** *"**Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?**"*

Jesus made us free from the old works of the law, but taught us that if we will show our love for Him, we will obey His Commandments.

**John 14:15** *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

## **8. WHOLE HOUSEHOLDS WERE BAPTIZED**

Jesus said nothing in His Great Commission about an ‘Age of Accountability’ or ‘Age of Reason’. The whole Bible message is that accountability begins at conception. We believe that Jesus intended that babies be baptized for the same reason that babies were circumcised, and we baptize whole families when they believe.

**Psalm 51:5** "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

**Acts 10:24; 47-48** "And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and **he had called together his kinsmen and near friends.**" <sup>47</sup> "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" <sup>48</sup> And **he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."

It is not credible to believe that in all the families baptized upon hearing the Gospel, not one of them had a baby in their family. Of course babies were baptized, for Jesus said let the children come!

**Acts 16:14-15** "And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. <sup>15</sup> And **when she was baptized, and her household....**"



**Acts 16:30-33** "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.** <sup>32</sup> And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, **and to all that were in his house.** <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; **and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.**"

**1 Corinthians 1:16** "And **I baptized also the household of Stephanas:** besides, I know not whether I baptized any other."

## **9. HE WHO BELIEVES & IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED**

**Mark 16:16** "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; he who believes not shall be damned".

According to Jesus, believing is not enough because even devils believe and tremble, but obedience will follow genuine belief.

**James 2:19-20** "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the **devils also believe, and tremble.** <sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

Jesus said you must be born again of water. Even babies, from the womb can and do know their Creator, and can testify to their faith in the Lord Jesus even without speaking so they should not be denied being born again:



**Luke 1:41** "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, **the babe leaped in her womb;** and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost."

The only Biblical dedication of a baby to God was by entering into O.T covenant through circumcision, or entering into N.T. covenant through water and Spirit baptism. Like everyone else, babies must be born again of water and Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.

**John 3:5** "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God".

Jesus likens the new birth to the first birth. The seed of His word when received by faith quickens the new baby believer to life, then the baby must be born into the church through the washing of regeneration, being born again of water and of the Holy Spirit.

**Titus 3:4-6** "But **after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,** <sup>5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but **according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;** <sup>6</sup> Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; **That being justified by his grace,** we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

## 10. BAPTISM IN WATER REPLACES OT CIRCUMCISION

God's covenant with Abraham demanded that Abraham obey God's commandments. Every man and male child was to be circumcised when eight days old. By circumcision, the baby with his family, entered into a covenant relationship with the living God of heaven.

Genesis 17:7-11 “And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. <sup>8</sup> And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. <sup>9</sup> And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. <sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup> And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it SHALL BE A TOKEN OF THE COVENANT betwixt me and you.”



Deuteronomy 30:6 “And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.”

God's heart toward His people has always been to bring them to have relationship with Him, to love God with their whole heart like He loves His people. The Holy Spirit through the writing of Paul teaches us the same message in the New Testament. God's purpose in circumcision was ultimately the circumcision of the heart. **The circumcision is performed still, but without hands, by faith.** God performs the circumcision without hands and **THE TOKEN OF ENTERING INTO COVENANT WITH GOD is now baptism:**

Colossians 2:11-12 “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

## **11. JEWISH BELIEVERS UNDERSTOOD BAPTISM**

Knowing the importance of these scriptures, the first Christian converts being devout Jews, it would have been natural for these first century Jewish believers to baptize infants. They were committed to keeping covenant with God by circumcising their male children at eight days old. So it is logical to believe that **if God regarded eight day old male babies as members of His covenant people through circumcision, and He did, then He also regards newborn babies to be members of His covenant and of His kingdom through baptism**, when God performs the "circumcision of the heart made without hands."

***Genesis 17:12-14** "And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. <sup>13</sup> He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and **my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.** <sup>14</sup> And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."*

The Jews who received the Gospel, believed that Baptism brings the candidate into the covenant with God in the same way as physical circumcision brought the male candidates into covenant with God.

***Romans 2:28-29** "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: <sup>29</sup> **But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter;** whose praise is not of men, but of God."*

Jewish believers were the only ones to whom the Gospel was preached for the first 7 years and they faithfully performed the token of the new covenant in the same way, as by faith, they had immediately performed the token of the old covenant to keep their covenant with God.

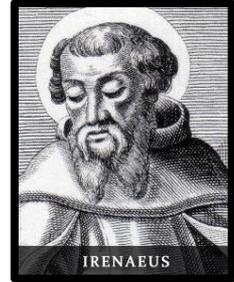
## 12. THE PRACTICE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Those who deny infant baptism have a problem because **they must explain why the fathers of the Church's first centuries speak of infant baptism as a universal custom.** The Fathers is what we now call Pastors who led the Church after the death of the apostles. We find these beliefs when we examine the writings of:

**IRENAEUS** (d. 202) Irenaeus taught that infants through adults should be baptized.

*"For He came to save all through means of Himself all, I say, who through Him are born again to God, infants, and children, and boys, and youths, and old men"*

*Against Heresies, Book 1, Ch. 22.4*



**CYPRIAN** (d. 258)

Cyprian compared the practice of infant baptism to the ancient law of infant circumcision. He taught that infant baptism should not be withheld, but is to be administered for the remission of sins.



*"In respect of the case of infants, which you say ought not to be baptized within the second or third day after birth, and that the law of ancient circumcision should be regarded, so that you think that one who is just born should not be baptized and sanctified within the eighth day, we all thought very differently in our council. For in this course which you thought was to be taken, no one agreed; but we all rather judge that the mercy and grace of God is not to be refused to any one born of man... Spiritual circumcision ought not to be hindered by carnal circumcision... we ought to shrink from hindering an infant, who, being lately born, has not sinned, except in that, being born after the flesh according to Adam, he has contracted the contagion of the ancient death at its earliest birth, who approaches the more easily on this very account to the reception of the forgiveness of sins - that to him are remitted, not his own sins, but the sins of another".*

*Letter 58 to Fidus*

### 13. INFANT BAPTISM WAS THE ACCEPTED CUSTOM

**ORIGEN** (d. 254)



Origen said they had received the custom of infant baptism from the apostles:

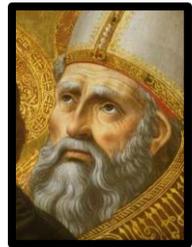
*"The Church has received from the apostles the custom of administering baptism even to infants. For those who have been entrusted with the secrets of divine mysteries, knew very well that all are tainted with the stain of original sin, which must be washed off by water and spirit" Romans Commentary, 5.9*

**AUGUSTINE** (d. 430)

Augustine taught that from infant to old age, that none should be denied baptism for the remission of sins.

*Enchiridion; ch. 43*

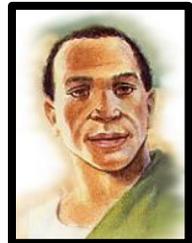
*"For from the infant newly born to the old man bent with age, as there is none shut out from baptism, so there is none who in baptism does not die to sin"*



**TERTULLIAN** (d. 240)

Tertullian taught it may be best to delay baptism for infants and unmarried women, but for the reason that the infant or woman might later sin and the sponsor be held accountable! While he expressed that he believed baptism to be necessary before death.

*"According to circumstance and disposition and even age of the individual person, it may be better to delay Baptism; and especially so in the case of little children. Why, indeed, is it necessary -- if it be not a case of necessity -- that the sponsors to be thrust into danger, when they themselves may fail to fulfill their promises by reason of death, or when they may be disappointed by the growth of an evil disposition?...For no less cause should the unmarried also be deferred, in whom there is an aptness to temptation ...as also in the widowed on account of their freedom -- until they are married or are better strengthened for continence. Anyone who understands the seriousness of Baptism will fear its reception more than its deferral. Sound faith is secure of its salvation!" Treatise on Baptism 18,4 (c. AD 200-206)*



## **14. IN COVENANT WITH JESUS UNTIL HE COMES!**

There has always been only one way to be saved by entering into covenant with the living God of heaven by faith: through the token of circumcision in the old covenant sealed in the blood of animals, or through the token of baptism in the new covenant sealed in the blood of Jesus Christ, showing our love by obedience to Him.

Jesus did not contradict Himself by having nailed the 613 laws containing penalties of death to His cross, while commanding us to keep His 10 Commandments, because there are no penalties attached to the 'Law of Love' that teaches us how to love God in the first 4 commandments, and how to love one another in the last 6! Love is all Jesus asks of us because He laid down His human life that we might by faith live forever with Him, Jesus paid it all!

Did circumcision save them in the old covenant? Absolutely not, but the Bible says if they did not offer their pledge by the token of circumcision, they were not accepted into covenant with God and were put out. Does baptism save us in the new covenant? Absolutely not, but Jesus said that no one will enter the kingdom of heaven without the circumcision made without hands, showing our love for Jesus by being born again of the water and of the Spirit, and receiving the promise from on high to baptize (immerse) us in His Holy Spirit. Baptism is the token of our pledge to enter into covenant with God to walk in His ways because we love Him.

When Jesus says about babies, "for of such is the kingdom of God," He is telling us that babies can believe, for how else can they enter the kingdom of God but by one way in Jesus Christ?! So though their faith is very simple, who are we to deny them to be born again?

*1 Corinthians. 12:13 "For by one Spirit, were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."*

Baptism, far from being the empty symbolism that many imagine it to be, is the visible Gospel of Jesus Christ, who said that baptism: "washes away sin", "saves", causes one to "die to sin", to be "buried and raised up with Christ", causes one to be "clothed with Christ", and "to be a member of the body of Jesus Christ" Praise His name!

## **15. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME**

1. God has never changed but remains our rock always the same.
2. God desires that we love Him from a heart devoted to Him.
3. God gives His light to all men so they may receive Him.
4. When we enter His covenant we become elect for salvation.
5. Jesus commanded us to teach and baptize all nations of people
6. Obedience of faith is not the same as the works of the OT law.
7. All ages in whole households were baptized.
8. The token of baptism replaces the token of circumcision.
9. The practice of the early church was to baptize infants to enter into God's covenant, just as infants were circumcised before.
- 10.

*Romans 16:25-26 "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, <sup>26</sup> But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith."*

It does not matter what any man says, but it only matters what God says. Our Lord Jesus Christ who has commanded us to baptize all nations, has declared: that everyone who dies without faith is damned, and it is wrong to deny the grace God offers in being born again of the water and the promise of His Spirit to these young ones who need His Spirit alive in their hearts empowering them for service to Jesus through loving others their whole life through. Should we listen to arguments of men or shall we obey the commandment of our Lord?

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."*

So let us praise Jesus with all our heart, mind and strength! Amen!

## TIMELINE COLORING PAGE

October 9, 26 AD [30<sup>th</sup> Jubilee/Day of Atonement] Heshvan 10, 3787



### JESUS SAID TO BAPTIZE ALL NATIONS IN HIS NAME

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, 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.”