

The Baptism of Jesus

Mark 1

LEVEL 5 – THE MEANING OF BAPTISM



This picture of the baptism of Jesus was drawn in 1834 by Julius von Carolsfeld.

In it we see many of the elements of the Lord's baptism mentioned in our lesson from the first book of Mark—the dove, the river Jordan, and John the Baptist, who is clothed in camel's hair with a leather belt. Note also the wilderness in the distance and the people who came to be baptized, called, "*All the land of Judea and those from Jerusalem.*"

This artist has pictured angels hovering solicitously over the Lord as He is baptized. While they are not mentioned in the Gospel of Mark, the Word does teach that by baptism everyone is introduced into the spiritual company of Christian angels. "*In the heavens, infants are introduced by baptism into the Christian heaven and angels are there assigned them by the Lord, to care for them*" (TCR 677).

The Meaning of Baptism

In considering the subject of baptism in the Writings, the chapter in *True Christian Religion* begins by stating that without a revelation of the spiritual sense of the Word, no one can truly understand baptism.

Application

Your project involves the correspondences of the things pictured in the scene on the first page. Remember that everything in the natural world pictures spiritual things on a natural plane. The natural things mentioned in the Word are brought together because of the story they tell us *spiritually*. In doing this project, you will study, and hopefully learn, the correspondence in the story of the Lord's baptism.

1. Cut out all the pieces from the next page.
2. By studying what is written on them, fit them over the parts of the pictures of the Lord's baptism of which they tell the correspondence.
3. When the whole puzzle is pieced together, you will no longer see the natural picture, but will read its spiritual meaning.
4. Now fill in the blanks in the following paragraph:

Just as we are introduced by baptism into the beginning of our
 regeneration, so the Lord at His baptism was first
 introduced to His great work of redemption of the world. Like Him,
 we can begin our work by coming to
 (John's correspondence)
 to be immersed in
 (Jordan River's correspondence)
 and afterwards look up to fill our minds with thoughts about
 regeneration and
 (dove's correspondence).

