

"HOW DID PETER BAPTIZE 3,000?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Many trying to defend a sprinkling or pouring mode of baptism, have argued that 3,000 could not have been immersed during the remainder of that day, and in a supply of water accessible to Jerusalem. Also, would there have been time left in that day to baptize 3,000 people? (Acts 2:41)

Peter's sermon started at 9:00 AM (Acts 2:15). The sermon conceivably could have lasted three hours (though the length is not given). By baptizing one per minute, which can be done by immersion, twelve persons could baptize 3000 people in four and one half hours. And, of course, any Christian could baptize. The act of baptizing does not have to be limited to the apostles. Likewise, as today one can be baptized by any Christian and not just the "Pulpit Minister".

Now for the other objection. Would there have been a sufficient amount of water nearer than the Jordan River (which is 20 miles away) in which to immerse? McGarvey, and other reliable scholars, have proved long ago, by the simple process of measuring the pools in and around the city of Jerusalem, that a supply of water was not a problem. The pool of Siloam (immediately south of the Temple enclosure) is still used today for the immersion of believers. The pools of Upper Gihon and Lower Gihon are located in the Valley of Hinnom. Upper Gihon measures 316' by 218' and averages 20' deep. Lower Gihon measures 592' long, and was made by damming up the valley. The Pool of Bethesda and the Pool of Hezekiah were within the walls of the city. Since knowledge of ancient Jerusalem has been spread abroad by the writings of archaeologists in the last 100 years, it has become inexcusable for any person of intelligence to raise the objection we are considering.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (Acts 16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (Acts 17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (Acts 8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (Acts 2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (Acts 14:22)

KYOWVA Evangelistic Association

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