

# The Baptism of Christ and the New Creation of God

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 3:18-22

→ "...And when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased'" (vv. 21-22).



## Big Idea

Jesus is the Pioneer of God's new creation!

The fundamental cry of humanity since the first moments after the fall is: "Who can put me back together?! Who can remake me! Who can make me altogether new?!" We know we are broken people in a broken place. We know we need help but we don't know where to look. So we look everywhere! And Satan is quick to distract us with a thousand answers—answers veiled with promise but void of potency. They look good but they let you down. Putting it simply: God's answer to the human (and cosmic) dilemma is...Jesus!

### (1) Identifying & Tracing the Elements

The elements found at Christ's baptism are: (1) Waters (v. 21); (2) Holy Spirit (v. 22a); (3) Heavenly Voice (v. 22b); and (4) Sonship (v. 22c). And these have shown up before at: (1) The Creation; (2) The Flood; and (3) The Exodus and Entrance. In light of these earlier episodes, all of the elements present at Jesus' baptism are seen to be charged with new-creational significance!

### (2) Jesus as the Pioneer of God's New Creation

We gather from all of this that: Christ is the new creation of God; He is the second and last Adam (1 Cor 15:45); He is the promised offspring of the woman (Gen 3:15); He is our ark through the flood waters of God's judgment (1 Pet 3:21); He is the offspring of Abraham through whom the nations are blessed (Gal 3:16); He is new Israel (Matt 2:15); He is our dry ground through the Red Sea (1 Cor 10:1-2); He is a prophet greater than Moses (Deut 18:15); He is the new Joshua, who went down into the Jordan and leads His people up and into the true promised land...He is the Pioneer of the new creation of God!

But *before* Jesus can be the Pioneer of God's new creation, He must be the Lamb of God's sacrifice. Or perhaps, better put: *because* He is the Pioneer of God's new creation, He must be the Lamb of God's sacrifice. He takes the waters; we get the new world!

God's answer is veiled with weakness and foolishness. Nobody sees the promise in this. But if God would be pleased to take us behind the veil we would see in Christ the wisdom and power of God. It looks like nothing, but in Christ, God is delivering everything!



## Critical Action

So where are you looking? The finger of almighty God on every page of Scripture is pointing to the Son as the answer. He and He alone is making all things new. Look to Him!



## Reflection Questions

- How are the flood, the Exodus, and the crossing of the Jordan like the initial creation? How are they different? How do they anticipate the baptism of Christ and ultimately His death on the cross?
- Do you feel broken? How so? What answers have you hoped in for re-creation? How is Christ different than all other answers? What has your experience of being put back together by Him looked like?
- Why is Jesus standing in line to be baptized? What does this mean for you? How does His baptism relate to yours?