

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

### Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium



1

### My topic tonight is **Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium**



2

Have you ever needed a little extra money? Have you ever wondered about a job that would quickly bring you in the extra cash you needed?



3

An American Christian college student was running short on money to pay for his college entrance fees, books and tuition. He knew that he would have to look for the best possible paying summer job to be back in college the next year. Randomly searching through the newspaper one day, he saw an advertisement from a company hiring college students to cut lumber deep in the forests of Canada.



4

At first he was hesitant. He knew these lumberjacks were a pretty rough bunch. As a Christian how could he survive for three months in the summer at a lumber camp with these alcohol drinking, smoking, cursing men but he needed the money so he applied for the position. All summer he worked with these non-Christian men cutting trees and hauling lumber. At the end of the summer he received quite a sizable paycheck.



5

When he arrived back at school and shared with his friends his summer activities, one of them asked him, "As a Christian how did you ever survive with these rough men all summer. They were drinking, smoking, carousing in town and cursing every day? The young man responded, "It was quite simple, I determined that they would never



6

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

find out I was a Christian.”

**In the last days of earth's history neutrality will not do. God is calling every one of us to take public stand.**

We will not be able to sit on the fence. The entire world will be called to openly, publically declare whose side they are on.



7

The truths of God's word give us something to stand on. Our theme for these meetings is:

**If it's in the Bible, I believe it.  
If it disagrees with the Bible,  
It's not for me.**



8

The book of Revelation reveals a God of incredible love who never forces our allegiance or coerces our will.

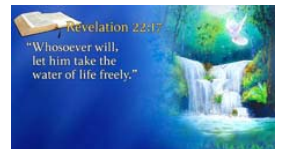
Throughout the Book of Revelation He invites us to come to Him freely. He says—

**Revelation 22:17.**

***“Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”***

In Revelation Jesus is pictured as the Lamb who dies to gain our ultimate freedom.

God is calling out a people to be faithful to Him. He is calling them to lovingly to keep His commandments. He invites them to publicly declare their loyalty. To declare their allegiance to Him.



9

**How do we take a stand?**

Revelation points us in the right direction.



10

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

### Revelation 1:5, 6

***“ . . . To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”***



11

Does God have a visible symbol we are washed in the Blood of Christ? He does.

---

**Baptism is a symbol of our commitment, loyalty, and allegiance to Jesus Christ.**



12

Jesus instructed His disciples with these words—

---

### Matthew 28:19, 20

***“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,***



13

***teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”***



14

**When we are baptized—  
We declare our allegiance.  
We take a public stand.  
We show Whose side we are on.**



15

Yet many Christians are confused over this basic Bible ordinance.

How many kinds of baptism are there?

---

Some churches sprinkle babies.



16

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

Others pour water over the head of a baby or young child.



17

One denomination practices olive oil baptism.

I even read of a church that sprinkled rose petals over the head of its youth declaring they were baptized.



18

One pastor took his youth out into the mountains and so called "baptized" them by letting them lay in the snow and covering them with it.



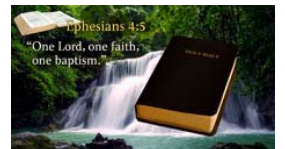
19

When he was questioned about this method he said, "It doesn't make any difference whether the water is a liquid or a solid."

Was this pastor right?

The Bible declares that there is only one true method of baptism. It clearly says, "**One Lord, one faith, one baptism**".

One Biblical method.



20

Wouldn't you agree with me tonight that the best way to discover the true method of baptism is to discover how Jesus was baptized?

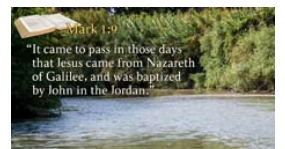


21

If we are baptized the same way Jesus was we certainly can't go wrong.

### Mark 1:9

***"It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan."***



22

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

### Matthew 3:16, 17

***“ . . . Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him,***



23

When Jesus was baptized He went down into the water and came up out of the water.  
He was *immersed*.

***and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.***



24

***And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"***



25

Jesus' baptism, by full immersion, was a significant event in His life.

Your baptism will be a significant event in your life.

There were two special things that happened to Jesus at His baptism.

First, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus to give Him supernatural spiritual power to face the temptations of the evil one.



26

The Bible promises that when we are baptized we too will receive that same spiritual power.

Wouldn't you like this spiritual power in your life?

It came upon Jesus and it will also come upon us.  
He received power at His Baptism and as we, by faith, open our hearts to Him we will receive the Holy Spirit at our baptism.

The Scripture says—

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

**Acts 10:38**

***"... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power."***



27

The second thing that happened at Jesus' baptism what **the Father spoke to Him from heaven** and said...



28

***"This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."***  
**Matthew 3:17**



29

Every time a child of God responds to the call of Christ and is baptized taking a public stand for our Lord heaven is pleased.

When you are baptized, once again the Father will say, "This is my beloved son; this is my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased."

**Believers down through the centuries have experienced the joy of making a full commitment to Christ through baptism.**



30

Sometimes they have been the only members of their family to do so.

Sometimes they have been the only members of their city or village or tribe.

God always calls us singly and alone.

He certainly did that with an Ethiopian returning from Jerusalem.

As the Ethiopian read Scripture, God miraculously led Philip to him. Philip explained the word of God to this prominent Ethiopian.



31

He answered his questions and made a strong appeal for

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

this man to fully completely dedicate his life to Christ.

The Ethiopian responded. Thrilled with his new relationship with Jesus, He longed to be baptized.

His request is found in the book of Acts.

---

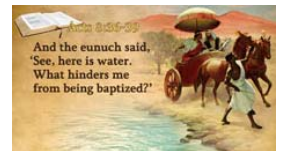
### Acts 8:36-39

***“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water.***



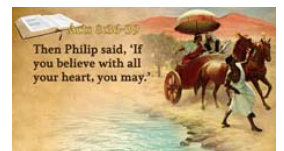
32

***And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’***



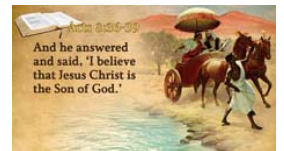
33

***Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’***



34

***And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’***



35

***So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.***



36

***Now when they came up out of the water . . .”***

Let's pause here for a moment.

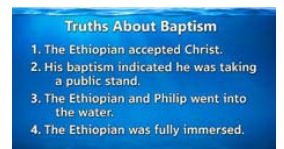


37

These verses teach us some vital **truths about baptism.**

**The Ethiopian** was baptized when he openly **accepted Christ.**

**His baptism** was a public decision that **he was taking a**



38

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

stand.

Both **Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water.**

**The Ethiopian was fully immersed.**

Philip lowered the Ethiopian gently below the crystal clear water as a symbol of Christ's ability to cleanse the entire person from sin.

The whole person must be immersed because the whole person has sinned.

Every part of us must go under the water because every part of us has sinned.

We need a lot more than sprinkling.

We need to be cleansed totally.

We need Bible baptism – full immersion.

In fact you may not be aware of the meaning of the word baptism.

---

**Baptism: What does it mean?**

**The Greek word, “baptize” means “to dip”, “to immerse”, to plunge underwater.**



39

If a Greek woman desired to completely change the color of a piece of cloth she would plunge it under water. The Greek word for that action was “baptizo”.

Baptism by immersion was certainly the practice of the ancient churches.



40

Archeology reveals baptismal sites in these churches in the early centuries.

---

**Ancient churches reveal the method of baptism used.**

Here is an ancient Christian church site with a baptistery near Ephesus (today's Turkey). The size of the pool-like structure, according to archaeologists and historians, demonstrates the fact that in those days only adults were



41



## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

baptized by immersion.

This is an early Christian **Church in Philippi**.

In the remains of the church we see an early baptistry where New Testament Christians baptized believers by immersion.



42

**St. John of Lateran** is the second largest church in Rome. It's the most famous church in Rome after St. Peter's Cathedral.



43

If you walk through the narrow alley way to the back of the church you discover something quite remarkable—  
A beautiful **baptistry**.



44

**Our Roman Catholic friends practiced baptism by immersion as late as the 13th century.**

The baptisteries in these ancient churches clearly reveal that the church practiced Bible baptism by immersion for hundreds of years.



45

Here is The **Leaning Tower of Pisa**

You may be familiar with the Bell Tower which is world famous because of the angle at which it is leaning.

You may not be as familiar with the baptistry behind the tower where our Roman Catholic friends practiced baptism by immersion for centuries.



46

One of the most remarkable baptisteries in the world is found in **Cappadocia**, a city of refuge deep within the caves of Southeast **Turkey**, where Christians found refuge from their oppressors in the middle ages.



47

Let's enter in through the carved rock into this secret city of

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

refuge and place of worship.

Here carved in rock is the baptistery where these faithful Christians baptized by full immersion.



48

Immersion was the practice of the New Testament Church. Jesus was baptized by immersion. The disciples baptized believers by immersion.

The early church baptized by immersion and believers through the centuries have followed this Biblical practice.

**It was not until the Council of Ravenna in AD 1311 that sprinkling and pouring were officially accepted as equally valid as immersion in the rite of baptism.**



49

The church introduced sprinkling as a more convenient method of baptism.

Many people put off baptism until they were near death. It was very difficult then for them to be immersed.

So gradually after many years sprinkling was accepted as equally valid as immersion.

During this series we have seen many practices that have slipped into the Christian church which have no foundation in Scripture.

For example, Sunday worship, the concept of the “immortal soul,” and sprinkling have no basis in the word of God.

God is calling us back –back to the Bible and back to the true Biblical method of baptism.

**What is the meaning of Bible baptism?**



50

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

### Romans 6:3, 4

***“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”***



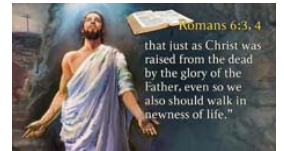
51

***Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death,***



52

***that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”***



53

When you go into that water it is saying, “Lord I accept your death on the cross for me.”



54

It is saying, “I want my old way of life to be buried and I want to live new in Christ.”

What does baptism represent?

### **Baptism**

#### **1. Dying to old sinful way of life.**

Is there something you did a year ago, 5 years ago or 10 years ago - something that haunts you today?



55

Something that troubles your soul today?

When you walk into that waters of baptism you are dying to all those sins of the past.



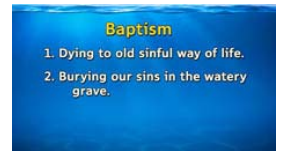
56

You are dying to that guilt of the past; you're dying to that condemnation of the past.

Everything in the past is cleansed.

#### **2. Burying our sins in the watery grave.**

Now somebody says, “Wait a minute though, doesn't God



forgive me every time I confess my sin?"

57

Sure He does. But look, have you remembered every sin you ever committed in your past life?

When you walk into the watery grave of baptism it is saying, "God, I give my whole self to you.

All the sins I remember and all the ones I don't.

Lord, you just count my whole past life sin and guilt.

---

I'm going to go under the water and everything is cleansed whether I ever confessed it or I didn't.

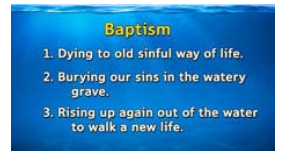
And I'm going to come up a new man, a new woman in Christ and I'm going to start a new slate and begin a new life."



58

### 3. Rising up again out of the water to walk a new life.

It's one thing to have a new car, a new suit, a new dress or a new pair of shoes, but I'll tell you something, the most exciting thing in life is a new life.



59

You can walk through the water and the old life will be gone forever!

You will have a clean slate before the judgment bar in Heaven.

You can rise up out of that water to walk in new life.

---

This is the symbol of the resurrection — coming up out of that water.

The Bible says that Sunday keeping is not the symbol of the resurrection; baptism is.

You come up out the water with the Spirit filling your life to live a new life in Christ.

You come up out of that water smiling, happy and cheerful. Rejoicing in Jesus Christ.

---



60

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

**Baptism doesn't mean you're perfect; it means you're committed.**



61

Somebody says, "Should I wait until I am perfect to get baptized?"

If you do you will never move ahead in Bible baptism.

Baptism doesn't mean you are perfect.

It means you are committed.

---

**Baptism is not the end of the Christian life.  
It is the beginning.**



62

It is a definite decision to walk through that water.

Baptism gives us a new sense of direction. We say, "God I am yours."

---

**Baptism gives us a new sense of freedom.**

I am Christ's.



63

**Baptism gives us a new spiritual power in our lives.**



64

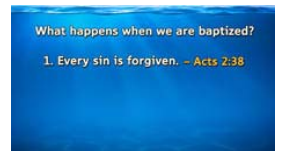
**What happens when we are baptized?**



65

**1. Every sin is forgiven.**

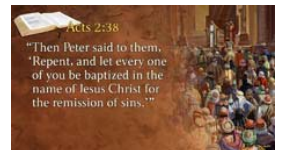
**—Acts 2:38**



66

**Acts 2:38**

***"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of***



***you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."***

67

How many should be baptized?  
Every one.

---

Somebody says, "Wait a minute, what about the thief on the cross?"

He was never baptized?

Where would the thief have gone if he had come off the cross?

Where?

He would have gone to be baptized.

So the Bible says baptism is for everyone not just a select few. At baptism every sin is forgiven.

At baptism the Holy Spirit empowers us.

---

## **2. The Spirit is given to us.**

**—Mark 1:10, Acts 2:38,39**



68



69

### **Mark 1:10**

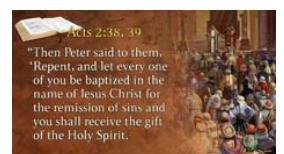
***"And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove."***



70

### **Acts 2:38, 39**

***"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.' and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***



71

God has a gift for you. When you are baptized you too will

---

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

receive that gift of the Holy Spirit.

***For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."***



72

**When God calls you to baptism and you are cleansed. He promises you the gift of the spirit to empower your life.**



73

### **3. We are adopted into God's family.**

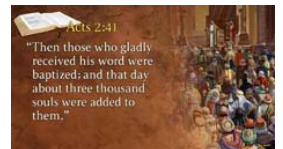
We become part of a body of believers.



74

### **Acts 2:41**

***"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."***



75

When you are baptized you gladly receive God's word.

Have you been gladly receiving God's word here during this Revelation of Hope series?



76

Have you been learning new truths?

How many of you have learned something new at these lectures?

You've been learning God's plan for your life.

You have been discovering new truths from His word.

It is now time to make a decision.

The Spirit of God has been speaking to your heart.

It is now time to follow His truth.

Many people wonder how baptism relates to church

---

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

membership. Did people who were baptized also join the church?

---

### Acts 2:42

***“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”***



### Acts 2:47

***“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”***



When baptized you become part of God's body of believers. His Sabbath keeping, commandment keeping, Adventist people just like it says here—

“They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship.

You want a church that is a Bible believing church, don't you?

You want a church that follows in harmony with the teachings of God's word. That is a Sabbath keeping church.

---

When you are baptized your sins are forgiven.  
When you are baptized your life is cleansed.  
When you are baptized you receive the Holy Spirit.



When you are baptized you become part of a worldwide Sabbath keeping fellowship all around the world.  
It is an international community of faith.

God is leading people of all nationalities, languages and religious persuasions to His last day movement today. He's gathering them into one final worldwide Sabbath keeping Adventist movement.  
He's leading men and women today in unusual ways.

---



## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

### What steps should a person take before being baptized?



80

#### Steps to baptism

##### 1. Repent - a genuine sorrow for sin.

Have you come to Jesus and said, “Lord I believe that you alone can forgive my sins.

I believe that you alone are my Savior.

I believe you alone can give me your power to be a new man, a new woman.”

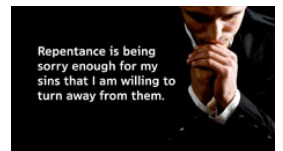
If you have, you have taken the first step on this journey of faith.



81

Repentance is being sorry enough for my sins that I am willing to turn away from them.

Repentance means my attitude toward my sins has changed.



82

##### 2. Believe - an acceptance of Jesus as both Savior and Lord.

If you've repented of your sin, if you believe that Christ is your Savior and Lord. And thirdly,



83

##### 3. Learn - instruction in the essentials of Biblical faith.

We are going to be growing and learning in all of our lives, aren't we?



84

But if you understand the basics of Biblical faith – the essential truths of His word – God invites you to make that decision to be baptized.



85

During this series of meetings, have you learned new truths from God's word? It is now time to commit to follow Jesus

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

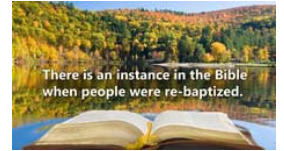
---

all the way in Bible baptism.

What if you have been baptized already?

---

**There is an instance in the Bible when people were re-baptized. Here it is.**



86

The apostle Paul was preaching in the upper coast of Ephesus and a group of people came to him—

---

### Acts 19:2-5

***“He said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’***



87

***So they said to him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’”***



88

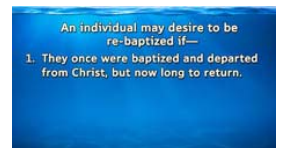
Paul instructed them more fully and though they had once been baptized by immersion already, Paul re-baptized them by immersion.

They wanted to walk in all the light of God's word. There are two reasons to consider re-baptism.

---

**An individual may desire to be re-baptized if:**

**1. They once were baptized and departed from Christ, but now long to return.**



89

You see you don't get re-baptized every time you sin because if you did, people would be re-baptized all the time.

But if you turn your back on Christ, baptism by immersion is a symbol of death to the old way of life.

It is a symbol of burial of the old way of life and resurrection to the new way of life.

If I walk away from the new way of life, if I disavow the things I once believed. If I turn my back on those teachings and truths and on Christ.

---

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

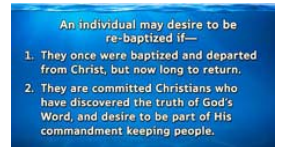
---

I come to a series of meetings like this and God stirs my heart, God moves in my heart and I say I want to accept, I want to come back all the way.

I've slipped away, I've backslidden, I've drifted away. It's time to get serious about the Lord. Come back to Christ and be re-baptized.

---

### **2. They are committed Christians who have discovered the truth of God's Word, and desire to be part of His commandment keeping people.**



90

There are lovely Christians, they love Jesus so much, they just love Him with all their heart, they come to a meeting like this and are like John's disciples, they had some of the truth but have learned more.

You, too, may desire to be re-baptized. It's a choice you may want to make.

If you are a committed Christian and you've discovered the truth of God's word and you say, "Look, I want to have the errors of the past washed away and I want to be part of God's commandment-keeping people."

If this is your desire, there is Biblical precedent for being re-baptized.

The Bible doesn't seem to say, "You must do that."

But if God stirs you, we would not forbid you.

We would say, "Come into the baptismal pool. God is calling you."

If you are like John's disciples and had part of the truth but now see His light of truth, move forward.

If you are a Christian, by going into the water you are not denying your Christian experience. When John's disciples were baptized they did not deny their previous experience.

They said "we've learned a larger body of truth and want to

---

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

move ahead, we want the further truth that God has.”

If that is your desire make that decision to follow Christ.

---

### How important is baptism?

Nicodemus came seeking Jesus at night and Jesus said,



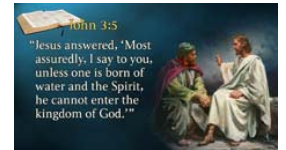
91

---

### John 3:5

***“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”***

The Bible says—

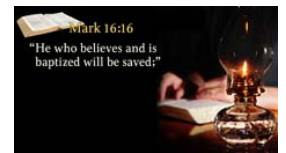


92

---

### Mark 16:16

***“He who believes and is baptized will be saved;***



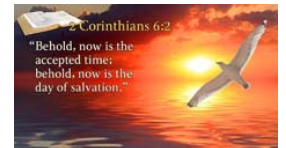
93

---

### 2 Corinthians 6:2

***“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”***

Ladies and gentlemen, there is no need for you to wait.  
Now is the day to seal it in your heart.  
Now is the day to say, “Lord I want my sins forgiven.  
I want to be cleansed.”



94

---

Now is the day to say, “I want to look forward to baptism and have the Holy Spirit fill my life.”

Now is the time that I want to join men and women around the world that are keeping God’s commandments.

---

### Acts 22:16

***“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”***



95

---

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

All of Heaven is waiting for you to take that stand for Christ.  
All of Heaven is waiting for you.

---

Pastor Duane was traveling to the village of Ncokaloca [nick-oh-call-oh-kah) in Central Africa for a baptism. In Ncokaloca he met several people who had prepared to be baptized — in fact they had waited almost a year for a pastor to come! The pastor told them that the next day he would be there for the baptism.



96

The next day, when the pastor returned after having a large baptism in another area, some of the people planning to be baptized were at a village in the forest, cutting trees. They thought that it was the following day that the pastor was going to be there for the baptism. The pastor went ahead, the candidates who were there were examined and baptized. The hour was very late and the pastor had to go on to a distant village that night.

As the pastor finished baptizing the last person, several ladies came out of the forest and when they saw what was happening, they said, "Oh, we misunderstood. We want to be baptized, too." The pastor had a schedule to keep and he said, "I'm sorry, I must go to Ncocosway. Next time we're here we'll have another baptism." Bertha and her friend felt very bad. As the pastor drove away in the Land Rover she and her friend began to walk, because they knew that in the forest a large tree had fallen across the road the day before and they thought that when the pastor came to that tree he would turn around and come back and see them walking and stop and baptize them.

But the pastor didn't have to stop because someone had cut the tree that day with a machete and had moved it aside. The pastor kept driving on. When Bertha and her friend got to that spot and saw the tree had been moved they were crestfallen but not deterred. They kept walking. They walked over 18 miles (30 kilometers) that long night. The next morning at sunrise they arrived at the village where the pastor was sleeping and knocked on his door. The pastor was amazed to see Bertha and her friend who explained that

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

they had walked all night long so that they could be baptized. The pastor said, "You must tell me, why you would walk all night long to be baptized?" Bertha responded with words the pastor will never forget. "Pastor, I'm so sick and tired of this old world. I want to go home and see Jesus."

---

Do you sense that tonight is a decision night for you?  
Do you sense that God is calling you?  
Are you sick and tired? How many are sick and tired?  
Would you stand with me?



97

Do you want to say, "Yes Lord, I want to make a decision for you? I want to look forward to being baptized."

Do you sense tonight that God is calling you?  
He is leading you to make this decision.

"Yes Jesus. I want to follow you all the way in Bible baptism. I want to follow you Lord. I want to stand for you publicly. I want to be part of the thousands around the world."

You may be a young person. Now is your time for decision.  
You may be studying the Bible.

You've been coming to the meetings.  
This is the time to make your decision.

You may have slipped away.  
This is your time to make a decision.

This is a wonderful opportunity to say, "Lord I want to be baptized. I want my sins cleansed."

Some people hesitate because they feel they are not yet good enough to make this decision.

Others hesitate because of some problem in their life. But

## Revelation's New Life for a New Millennium

---

the song says, "Just as I am I come to thee."

If you have never been baptized the Bible way why not make your decision to follow Jesus all the way tonight. His peace, His power, His cleansing, His joy will flood into your soul.

Is that your desire? Would you raise your hand right where you are?

If you have been baptized and slipped away, God is calling you back tonight. Would you raise your hand?

This is your time to respond to the Spirit and return to the Lord.

If you have been baptized before but in this series discovered the "fullness" of God's truth and want to be part of God's commandment keeping people, this is decision time for you.

Would you raise your hand? Oh my friends, Jesus loves you so much. I want to pray for you now and we will seal your decision with Jesus. Would you just come forward if you raised your hand or if you are thinking about being baptized? Just come forward now...just come...come... Let us pray. Add at the very end: If you came forward, just step aside here. I want to shake your hand. My helpers will get your information, name, address, phone number, and your prayer request.

---