

# Questions About Coming Out of Babylon, the Sabbath, and Baptism

By Pastor Ed Anderson

The pastor answered a previous question about "how to come out of Babylon".... through baptism!? Does this mean that any previous baptism is invalid? Is there a video link or study available from the SDA that teach about the other kinds(?) of baptism written in the Word of God?

## Spiritual and symbolic baptisms

**Baptism of the Holy Spirit:** This is described as the Spirit's anointing at the time of salvation, bringing about new life and repentance.

**Baptism into Moses:** A symbolic baptism of the Israelites through the Red Sea, described in the Old Testament.

**Baptism of suffering:** Christ's baptism of suffering, where he was "baptized" with suffering, as referenced in Mark 10:38.

**Baptism of fire:** Mentioned in the context of John the Baptist's prophecy, it refers to the purifying work of the Holy Spirit.

**Baptism for the dead:** A practice mentioned in the Bible, particularly in 1 Corinthians 15, which has various interpretations today.

## Answer:

Great questions — thank you for being so thoughtful and attentive to what the seminar is teaching. Let's unpack the two topics you raised — **baptism "to come out of Babylon"** and **various "kinds" of baptism** — and clarify how they align with the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and what is found in Scripture.

### **1. "Coming out of Babylon" by Baptism**

When Pastor Ed Anderson said that "coming out of Babylon" is achieved through baptism, the emphasis is likely on entering **a committed relationship with Christ**,

symbolized by **water baptism**, which marks one's identification with Jesus, His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4).

- SDA official belief states: "Baptism by immersion is the outward sign of repentance, of dying to the old life and rising to a new life in Christ."
- It does **not necessarily mean** that *every previous baptism* is automatically invalid, but rather that one must **personally accept Christ, repent, and be baptized accordingly** in accord with biblical teaching (and sometimes the church's process) to truly stand outside the power of Babylon (Revelation 18:4).
- If someone was baptized previously (in another denomination, or without a clear personal commitment) the church may recommend a "rebaptism" when the person understands the meaning and makes a personal decision, rather than declaring the former baptism always invalid.

So you would want to ask:

- Was your prior baptism by immersion?
- Did you understand it as an expression of faith in Jesus and repentance?
- Are you now making that personal commitment with full understanding?

If yes, then that stands. If no, then the church may encourage baptism now in light of current understanding.

## 2. "Kinds of Baptism" — Spiritual & Symbolic Elements

You listed several "baptisms": water, Holy Spirit, into Moses, suffering, fire, for the dead. Let's clarify how these are treated in Scripture and by the SDA church.

### Recognized by Adventists / Scripture

- **Water Baptism:** The church emphatically teaches and practices baptism by immersion in water as the public symbol of repentance and new life in Christ.
- **Baptism of the Holy Spirit:** While not always emphasized as a separate "event" in every believer's life by the SDA church, it is agreed that believers receive the Holy Spirit when they accept Christ (Galatians 3:27; John 7:39).

### Other "kinds" you mentioned (symbolic or debated)

- **Baptism into Moses:** Paul uses this symbolism: "For our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea." (1 Corinthians 10:1-2) It's a metaphor of identification with Moses and the deliverance from Egypt.
- **Baptism of Fire / Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire:** The phrase "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11) has been interpreted in various ways

(purification, judgment, power). The SDA church doesn't have a standard teaching listing several discrete "fire baptisms" as separate rites.

- **Baptism of Suffering:** The concept finds support in Mark 10:38-39 ("baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with..."). It is more an analogy of sharing Christ's sufferings rather than a literal rite.
- **Baptism for the Dead:** Mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:29 ("Else what shall they do who are baptized for the dead..."). Its meaning is uncertain, and Adventist teaching does not incorporate it as a practice.

### What the SDA Position Emphasizes

- "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5) is highlighted.
- Baptism is primarily about water immersion and union with Christ (Belief #15).
- Symbolic analogies (like baptism into Moses) are *metaphors* for spiritual truths, not separate rituals.

### 3. What You Can Do to Study and Prepare

- Visit the official SDA site on *Baptism* ([adventist.org](http://adventist.org)) for doctrinal statements.
- Find the "Baptismal Manual / Study Guide" used by the Adventist church for new members and baptismal candidates.
- Ask your pastor specifically: **"Does my prior baptism meet the biblical and denominational criteria?"** Be ready to share the mode (immersion), your understanding, and your personal commitment to Christ.