

**MARK 16:  
UNBELIEVING BELIEVERS,  
A BAPTISM WHICH SAVES  
SIGNS THAT FOLLOW**

Mark 16:16-20 -- NKJV

He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these **signs** will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

## Three Questions to be Answered:

1. Who are the believers?
2. What is the baptism?
3. Who performs the signs?

# Prophecies of the Resurrection

**Mar 8:31** And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days **rise again**.

**Mar 9:31** For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will **rise the third day**."

**Mar 10:33-34** Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And **the third day He will rise again**.

# Disbelieving the Resurrection

## Mark 16:1-14

- The women – Mark 16:1-8
- Mary Magdalene – Mark 16:9-10
- The disciples – Mark 16: 11-14

## The Women (Mark 16:1–8)

Mar 16:1 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away-- for it was very large.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

7 "But go, tell His disciples-- and Peter-- that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

8 So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Trembled-- **ἔχω** [echo] imperf act ind. They kept on being gripped, seized.

they were afraid -- **φοβέω** [phobeo] imperfect middle ind. – they kept on being afraid.



## Mary Magdalene – John 20:13-15

13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

## Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9–10)

9 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.

10 **She went and told** those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.

## The Disciples (Mark 16:11–14)

11 And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, **they did not believe.**

12 After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. [cf., Luke 24:13-35]

13 And they went and told it to the rest, but **they did not believe** them either.

14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their **unbelief** and **hardness of heart**, because they **did not believe** those who had seen Him after He had risen.

## The Disciples (Mark 16:11–14)

In verse 11, *they did not believe*.

In verse 13, *they did not believe*.

In verse 14, Jesus *rebuked their unbelief . . . because they did not believe*.

Clearly, the disciples were unbelieving.

## Jesus' Response (Mark 16:14)

14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He **rebuked** their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

**Rebuke** -- **ὀνειδίζω** [oneidizo] aorist act ind. . to find justifiable fault with someone, *reproach, reprimand*

## The Commission (Mark 16:15–16)

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

## The Occasion of the Commission

The Mark 16 passage occurs on the day of Jesus' resurrection, when He appeared to the disciples privately in Jerusalem as they ate a meal in hiding.

This parallels John 20:19–23 which takes place the night of the resurrection in the locked room where the disciples were in hiding for fear.

## The Addressees of the Commission (Mark 16:15–16)

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

The Eleven are the addressees (Mark 16:14).

The flow of thought is this: They did not believe (16:11), they did not believe (16:13), they did not believe (16:14), he who believes (16:16). In light of this, the subjects of verse 16 are the apostles themselves.



# The Baptism of the Eleven.

*He who believes and is baptized. . . .* (Mark 16:16):

## Distinct baptisms in the New Testament

1. The baptism of Moses (1 Corinthians. 10:1, 2). (Dry, real).
2. The baptism of the cup (Mark 10:38). (Dry, real).
3. The baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians. 12:13; Matthew 3:11; John 14:16, 17). (Dry, real).
4. The baptism of fire (Matthew. 3:11, 12; Luke 3:16, 17). (Dry, real).
5. The baptism of John (Matthew. 3:4-11). (Wet, symbolic).
6. The baptism of Jesus (Matthew. 3:13-17). (Wet, symbolic).
7. The baptism of the believer (Matthew. 28:16-20). (Wet, symbolic).
8. The baptism of Noah's ark (1 Peter 3:20-21). it a type of baptism. Hence, some writers list it as a distinct baptism.

# The Baptism of the Eleven

Two most common explanations:

1. Baptism by the Holy Spirit
2. Baptism in water

Third possibility:

3. Baptism of the Cup

The Baptism of the Eleven: (cf Luke 12:50-53)  
*he who believes and is baptized....*Mark 16:16

Mar 10:38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" 39 They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with **you will be baptized;**

## The Salvation of the Eleven:

*he who believes and is baptized **will be saved**-- Mark 16:16*

**σώζω [sozo]** to preserve or rescue from natural dangers and afflictions, *save, keep from harm, preserve, rescue*  
*[BDAG]*

### Saved from what?

Saved from a wasted life. Saved from the temporal judgment that will come because of unbelief.

## Mark 8:35-37

<sup>35</sup> "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

<sup>36</sup> "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

<sup>37</sup> "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

## The Possibility of Condemnation.

**Mark 16:16** "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe **will be condemned.**

κατακρίνω [katakriino] future passive indicative

pronounce a sentence after determination of guilt,  
to judge someone as definitely guilty and thus subject  
to punishment. -- LN

## Will be condemned

The word may be used for eternal condemnation (e.g., Luke 11:32) but even there it is questionable.

It indicates guilt and therefore subject to punishment in time (e.g., Mark 10:33; 14:64; . Romans 14:23; Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:6

## Summary: Mark 16:15-16

Mark 16:15 only commissions those who would become His apostles. Following this commission is an exhortation to believe and be baptized. The immediate object of their faith must be the truth of their Savior's resurrection. Those apostles who believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and are baptized into His humiliation and suffering through obedience to God's plan, will be delivered (16:16a). God will find guilty and discipline any of the eleven who would disbelieve the resurrection.



## The Sign Gifts – Mark 16:17-18

17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

## Validation – Mark 16:20

<sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen

## Conclusion

Understanding the baptism of Mark 16 in this light makes good sense in the context. If the disciples will believe in the resurrection of Christ and are willing to endure this cup of humiliation and suffering, they will be delivered from the consequences of living a life of unbelief.

Further, they disciples are promised supernatural ability in their proclamation of the gospel in the first century.