

Whereas the mark of the old covenant—circumcision—was available only to males, the mark of the new covenant—baptism—is available to

_____.

In baptism:

- We die to our old, sinful nature.
- We are buried.
- And we arise again from our watery grave—resurrected to new life.

Have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

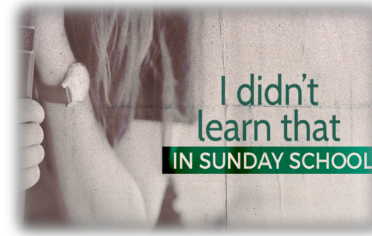
Romans 6:3–4 (NLT)

Have you been baptized?

Are you living out God's call to:

Love God, Love others, and Live out the Gospel life?"

Do you wish to renew your baptism?



sermon notes

Why Did God Try to Kill Moses?

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Exodus 4:24–26 (NLT)

On the way to Egypt, at a place where Moses and his family had stopped for the night, the LORD confronted him and was about to kill him. But Moses' wife, Zipporah, took a flint knife and circumcised her son. She touched his feet with the foreskin and said, "Now you are a bridegroom of blood to me." (When she said, "a bridegroom of blood," she was referring to the circumcision.) After that, the LORD left him alone.

A few questions:

- Why did God want to kill Moses?
- Why did Zipporah circumcise her son?
- How did Zipporah know that circumcising her son would stop God from killing Moses?
- Why did she throw the foreskin at Moses?
- Why did she bless Moses out?

The Story in Bullet Form:

- Baby Moses is rescued and adopted by the Princess of Egypt.
- He was raised in royalty in the Pharaoh's palace.
- As an adult, Moses flees Egypt after killing an Egyptian taskmaster who was beating an Israelite slave.
- Moses lives in the land of Midian (Sinai Peninsula) and marries a woman named Zipporah.
- They live there 40 years and have two sons: Gershom and Eliezer.
- Moses meets God in a burning bush and is told to return to Egypt and demand that Pharaoh "Let God's people go!"

The Story in Bullet Form (cont.):

- Life becomes very different.
- On the way to Egypt, God tries to kill Moses.
- Zipporah immediately circumcises their son.
- She throws the foreskin at Moses' feet.
- She declares: "You are a bridegroom of blood to me!"
- Then, God leaves Moses alone.

That's it. The Bible says nothing else!

Top Two Questions:

1. Why did God try to kill Moses?
2. Why did Zipporah circumcise her son?

**Let's begin with question two:
Why did Zipporah circumcise her son?**

**Circumcision was the _____
God had with Israel.**

This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be circumcised. You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you. From generation to generation, every male child must be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. Genesis 17:10–12 (NLT)

Bottom line: God commanded every Israelite to circumcise their boys.

Reading Between the Lines

Obviously, one of their sons was not circumcised. It was most likely their second son, Eliezer. It was probably because Zipporah refused to allow it. She likely witnessed the circumcision of her first son and found it disgusting. Also, she was not an Israelite and her theology did not demand it.

The Problem: Failing to circumcise their son put them at odds with God.

Why did God try to kill Moses?

The best answer:

- God had called Moses to be his spokesperson to the Pharaoh and the leader of the Israelites who would lead them out of slavery, across the Red Sea, through the wilderness and into the Promised Land.
- How could he *lead with integrity* if he refused to obey God's requirement for circumcision?
- God could have killed Moses if that had been his desire.
- Therefore, God was trying to get their attention in a way that they could not avoid.

**We know that Jewish males are required to be circumcised,
but what about Christians?**

**Should Christian males be circumcised as a part of God's
everlasting covenant?**

**Christian males are _____ to be
circumcised as a sign of God's everlasting covenant.**

The new sign of God's everlasting covenant is

_____.

When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Colossians 2:11–12 (NLT)