

repentance, which that baptism implied. It was not Christian baptism, for that was not instituted until several years after he had been baptized. The nature of the case makes it impossible that he could be baptized in his own name; therefore he could not receive Christian baptism. Christian baptism is a symbol of cleansing from inward impurity; and he had no such impurity from which to be cleansed. He was baptized "to fulfill all righteousness;" that is, all the requirements of the law. He came among men that he might become a minister of his gospel, and our Great High Priest, and he had to fulfill all the requirements of the law appertaining to those offices.

66. What did the law require of our Lord as a minister and a priest?

The Mosaic ritual required that he would not begin to preach until he should be thirty years of age, and not then without being sprinkled with water. Numbers 8 : 5-7 : "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take the Levites from among the children of Israel and cleanse them. And *thus shalt thou do unto them to cleanse them : Sprinkle water of purifying upon them.*"

67. How does it appear that these laws applied to Jesus?

They were parts of the established ritual, and were binding upon every one who entered upon the office of the ministry and the priesthood, from Aaron down to Christ.

68. Might not Christ be exempt from these laws, inasmuch as he was holy?

No. He made himself subject to his own laws. He was holy because he kept every law faithfully. He could not preach until he was thirty years old, because he must keep the law. He could not be our faithful High Priest unless he kept the law. "Think not," says he, "that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."

69. Did the law require that Jesus should be immersed, or that he should be sprinkled?