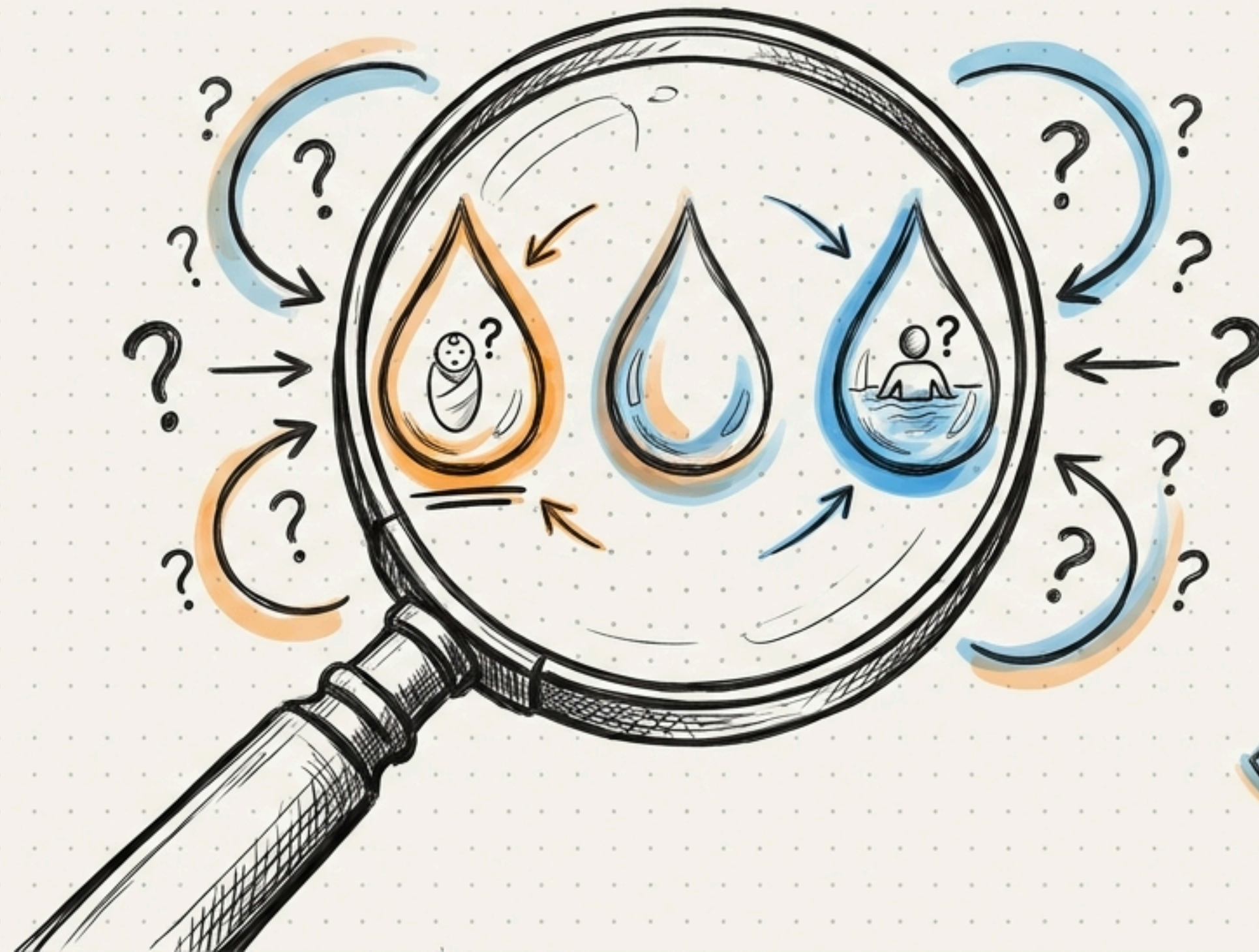


# Mapping the Waters

A visual investigation into what the Bible actually teaches about Infant and Believer's Baptism.

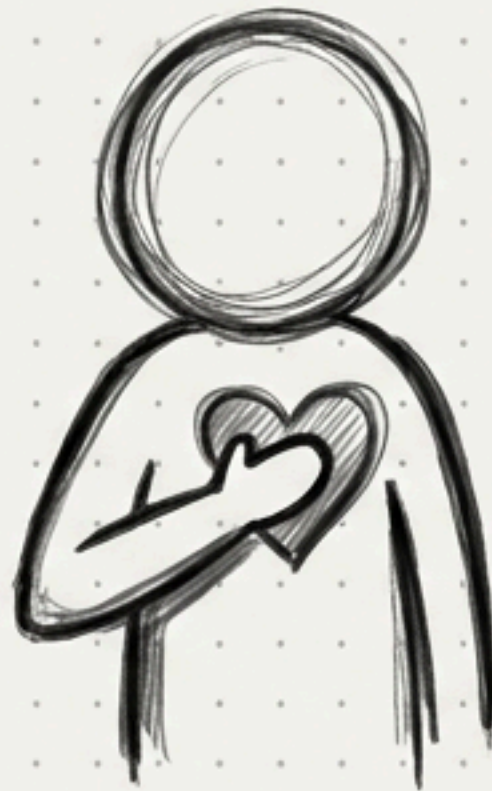


Let's examine the  
evidence together...



# The starting point: What is baptism?

Inward Reality



(Faith, Repentance, Discipleship)

Outward Act



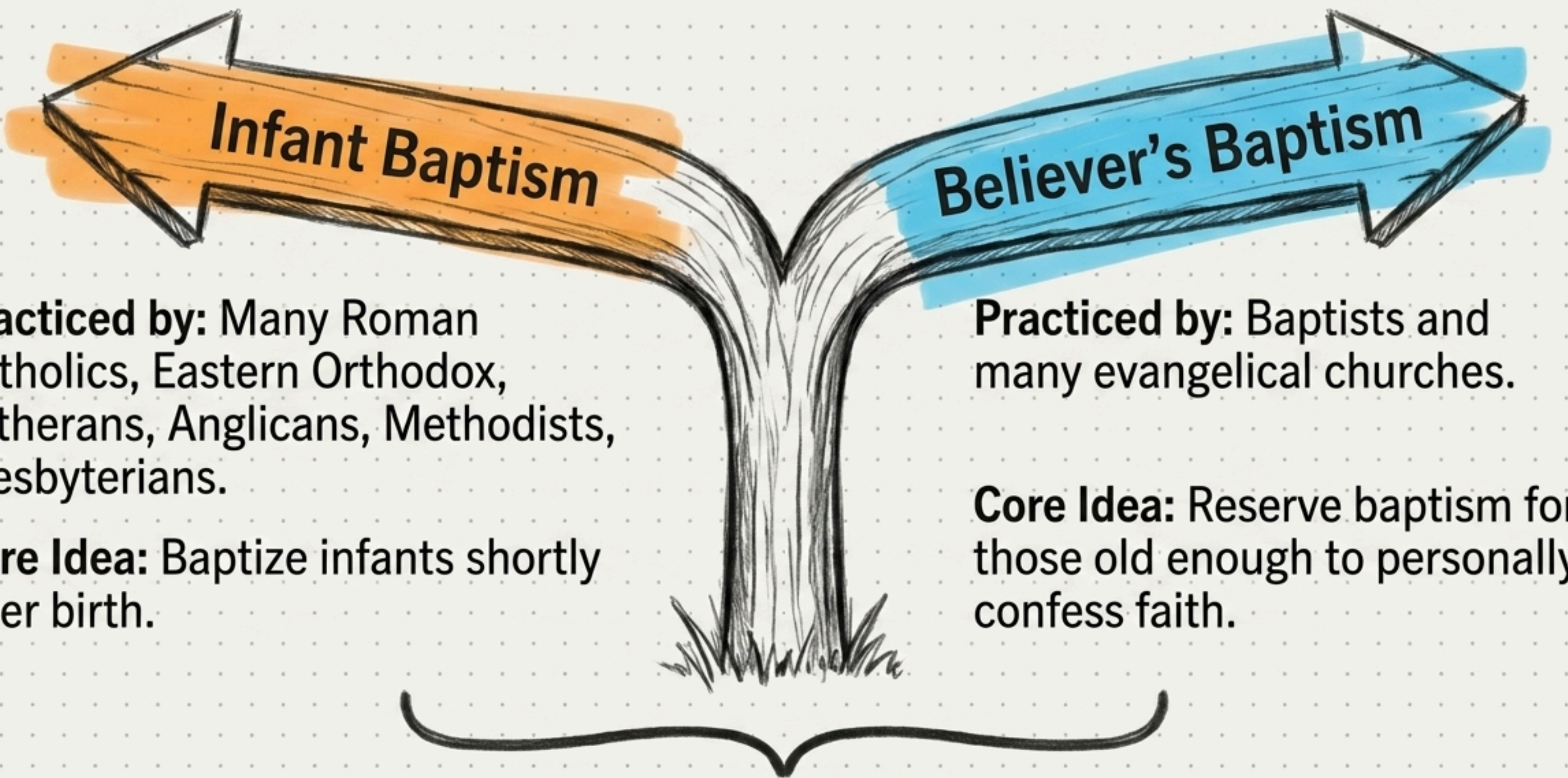
(Public Declaration of belonging to Christ)

Baptism does not save a person. Rather, it publicly proclaims that a person belongs to Christ.

Why does this matter? Because baptism was commanded by Christ Himself. If God commands it for infants, we should practice it. If not, no tradition can add to Scripture.



# Two paths taken by sincere Christians



## Infant Baptism

**Practiced by:** Many Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Lutherans, Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians.

**Core Idea:** Baptize infants shortly after birth.

## Believer's Baptism

**Practiced by:** Baptists and many evangelical churches.

**Core Idea:** Reserve baptism for those old enough to personally confess faith.

Both groups believe in Jesus, love the Bible, and desire to obey God. Both appeal to Scripture.



# The fundamental divide is about who baptism is designed for

|                            | Infant Baptism                                                     | Believer's Baptism                                                   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Primary Biblical Focus | The Covenant Sign<br>(Continuity with the Old Testament)           | The Explicit Pattern<br>(New Testament examples of personal faith)   |
| Timing of the Ordinance    | Precedes personal faith<br>(administered to children of believers) | Follows personal faith<br>(administered after repentance and belief) |



# Clue #1: Christ commanded the baptism of disciples

Source: Matthew 28:19-20 (The Great Commission)



Discipleship involves learning, following, and responding. Supporters of believer's baptism argue an infant cannot yet be a disciple in this sense, pointing toward baptism *following* faith.



# Clue #2: The consistent pattern throughout Acts

## The Pattern



Hear the Gospel



Believe the Gospel



Be Baptized

## The Evidence Checklist



Day of Pentecost: "Those who received his word were baptized" (Acts 2:41)



Samaria: "When they believed... they were baptized" (Acts 8:12)



The Ethiopian eunuch: Believed before baptism



Saul: Believed before baptism

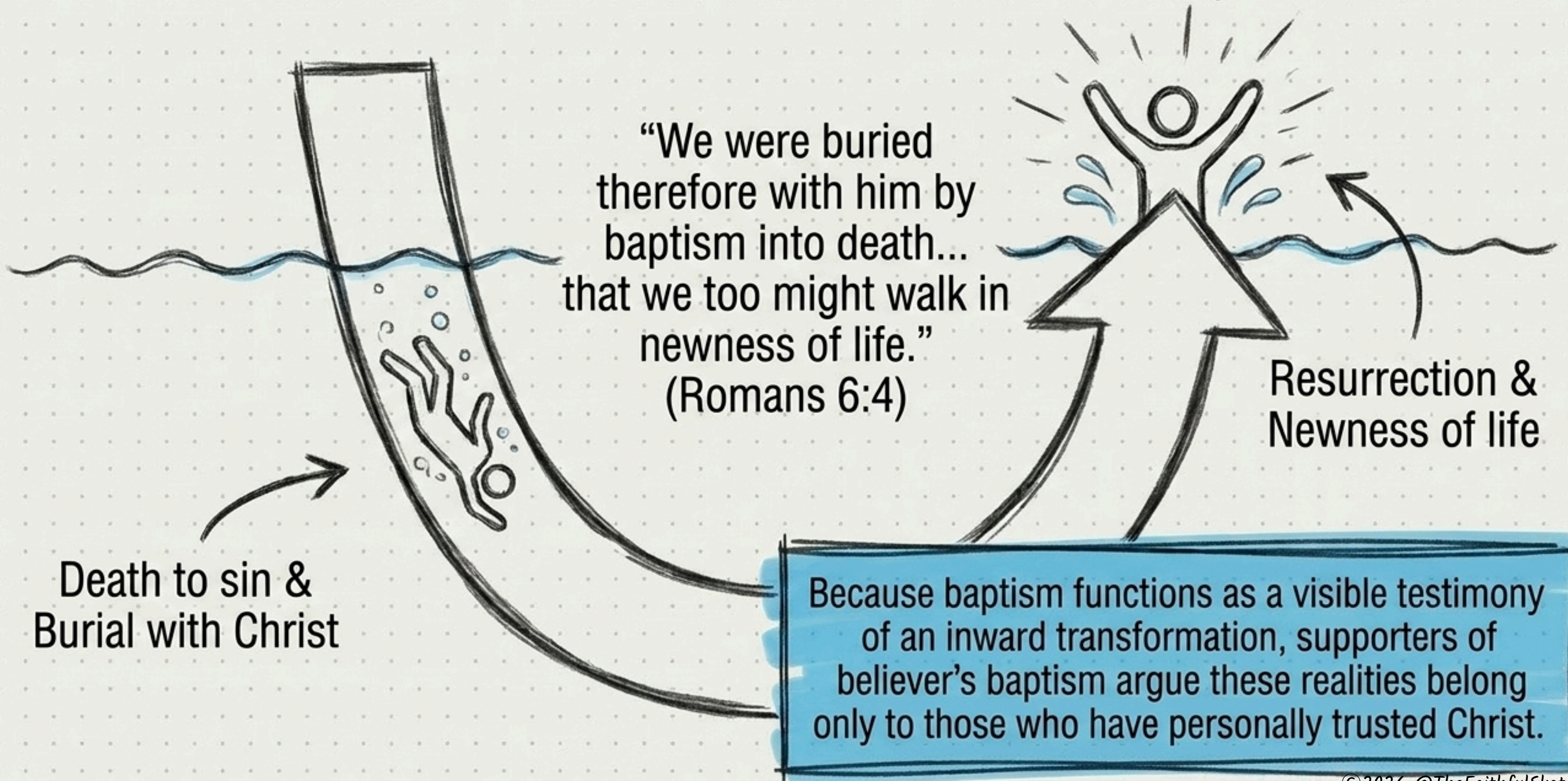


Cornelius, Lydia, & the Jailer: Believed before baptism

The text specifically identifies people who responded to the gospel. Infants are not mentioned in these accounts.

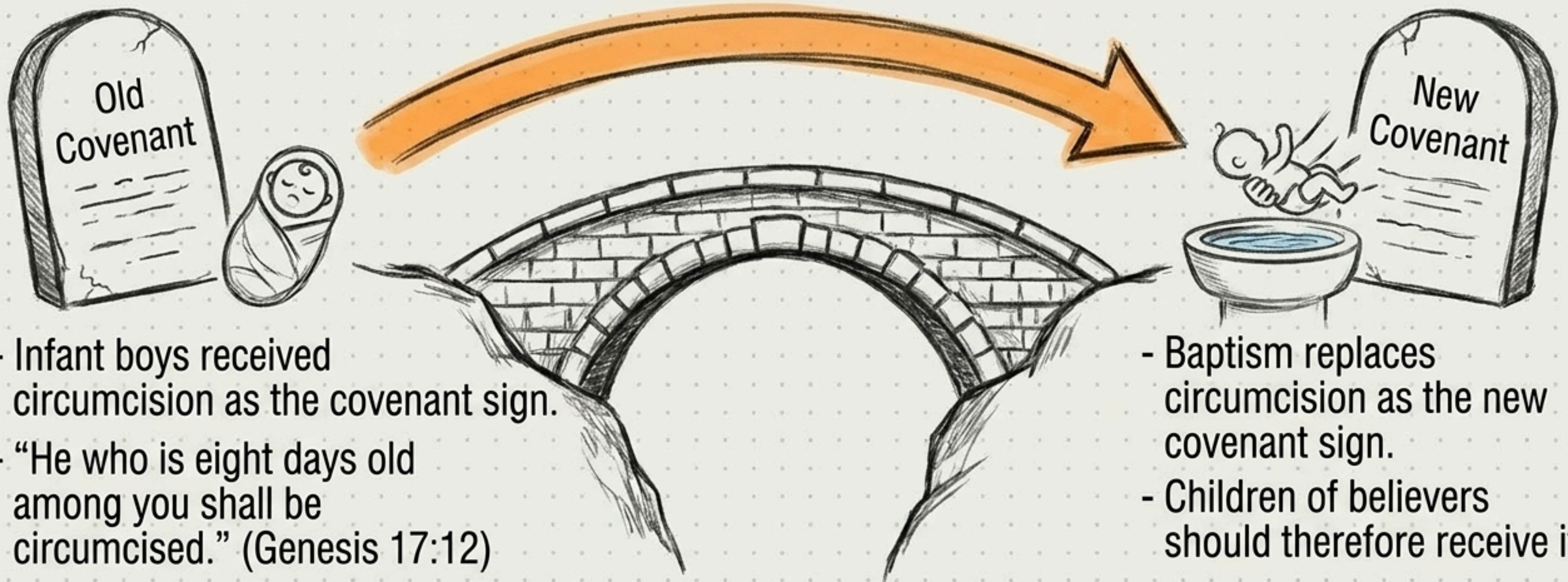


# Clue #3: What does the water symbolize?





# Clue #4: The Circumcision Connection



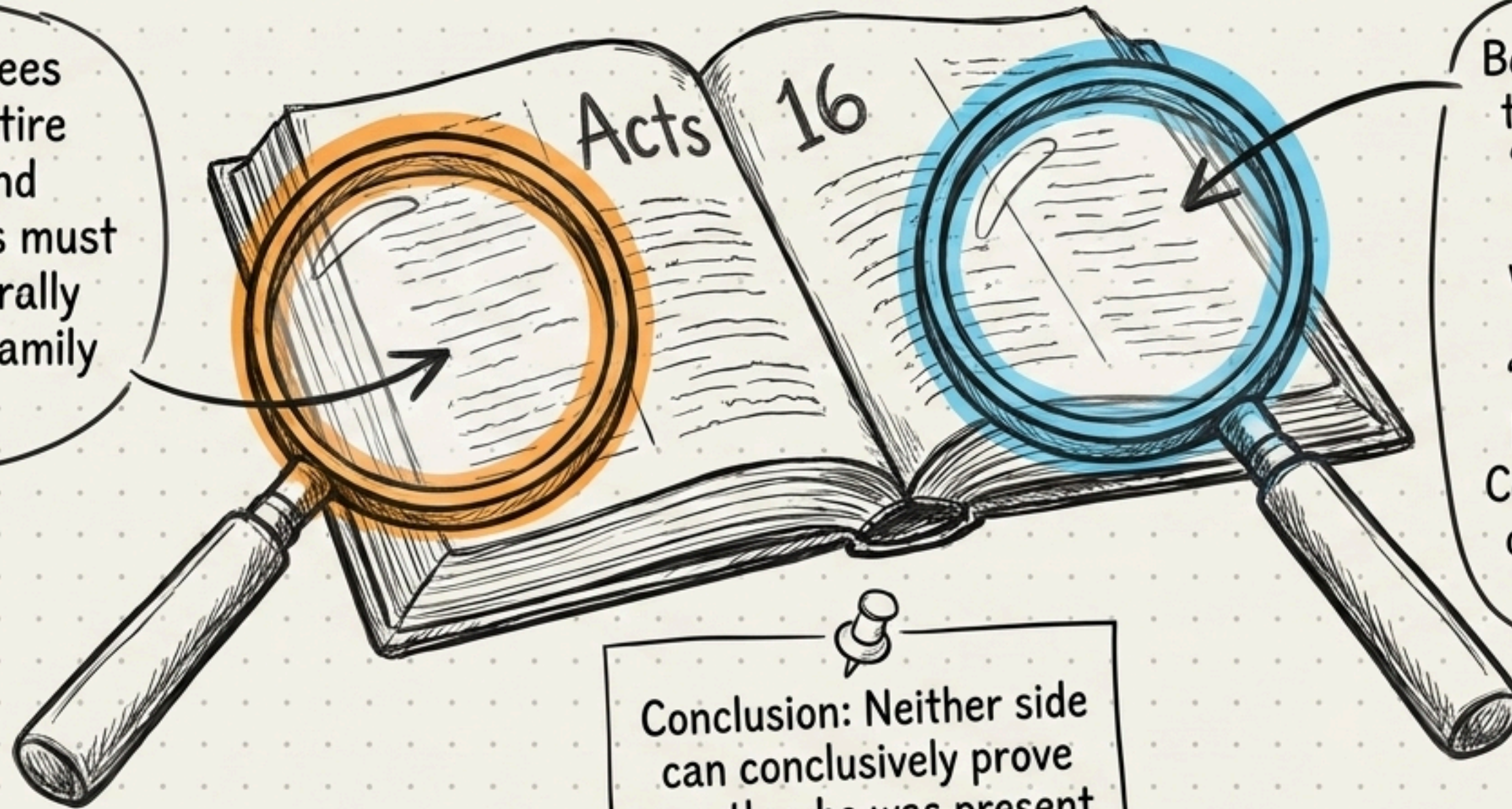
This argument forms the foundation of many churches' practice. Disagreement begins over whether the New Testament explicitly makes this exact connection.



# Clue #5: The Household Mystery

Several passages mention entire households being baptized (Lydia, Philippian jailer, Stephanas). Do they include infants?

Infant View: Sees the phrase “entire household” and concludes infants must have been naturally included in the family unit.



Believer's View: Examines the surrounding verses: “spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house” (Acts 16:32) and “rejoiced... that he had believed” (Acts 16:34). Concludes members were old enough to hear and respond.

Conclusion: Neither side can conclusively prove exactly who was present in these households.



# The deepest divide: Physical Birth vs. Spiritual Birth

## The Old Covenant



- Entered through Physical Birth.
- A child born into Israel automatically belonged to the covenant nation.

## The New Covenant

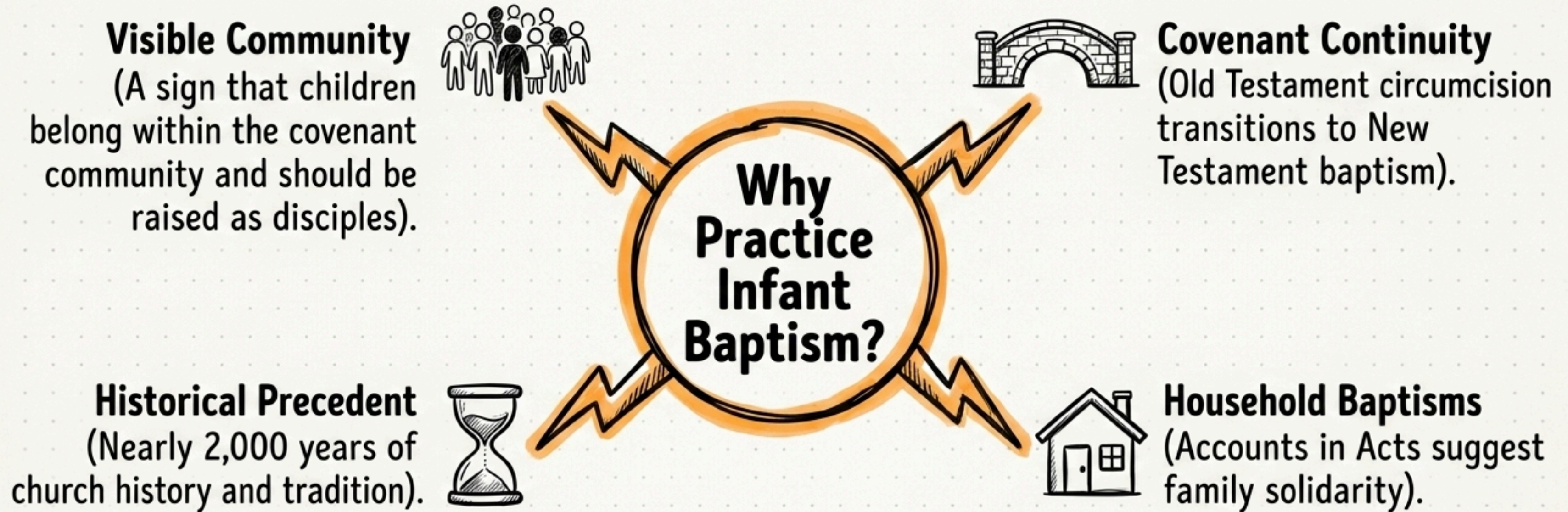


- Entered through Spiritual Rebirth.
- "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)
- "They shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest." (Jeremiah 31:34)

Believer's baptism argues that membership is no longer based on ancestry, so the sign belongs only to those who personally know the Lord.



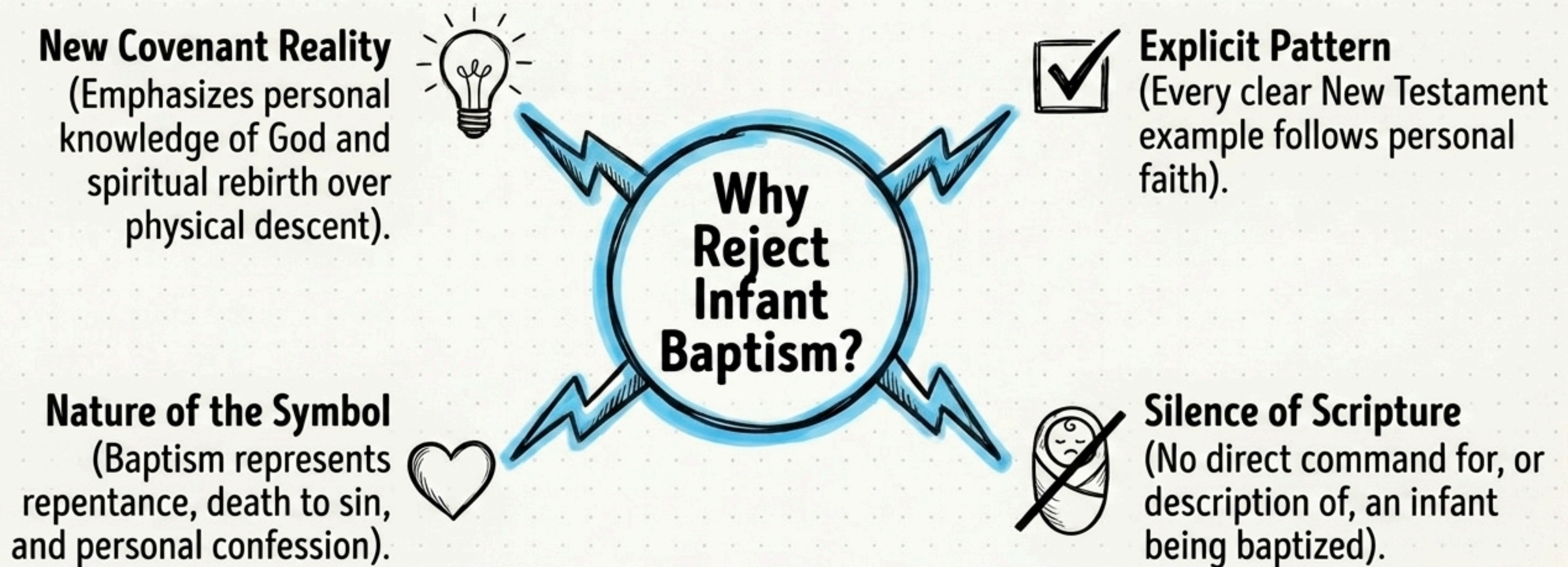
# Synthesis: Gathering the case for Infant Baptism



*Christians who practice this are not ignoring Scripture; they believe they are following biblical principles of covenant logic.*



# Synthesis: Gathering the case for Believer's Baptism





# A shared foundation: A Biblical view of children



*Rejecting infant baptism does not mean diminishing the value of children.*



# The Final Blueprint

Christians have debated the nuances for centuries, yet when we examine the New Testament, one undeniable pattern appears repeatedly:

