

WATER IMMERSION (BAPTISM)

DEFINITIONS:

Bapto - Greek term meaning to make whelmed or submerge.

Baptizo - Greek term

I. Origins and Development of Water Immersion in the Ancient faith of Israel

- A. Congregation of Israel immersed themselves in water in preparation to receive the Torah commands at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:10-11, the phrase "...let them wash their clothes" is a reference to water immersion).
- B. Based upon Exodus 19:10, water immersion became a prerequisite for converts to the religion/faith of Israel before receiving the covenant of YHVH.
- C. Physical representation of people being attached to YHVH and to his name.
- D. Represented that a convert died and buried the pagan lifestyle when fully immersed into the water.
- E. Represented that a person/convert was born anew or born again when coming out of the water.

II. Immersion under the ministry of John the Baptist

- A. Israelites were called to be immersed in water.
- B. Sign of the New Covenant being established
- C. Proof of repentance from a sinful life and the visible declaration of conversion.
- D. Continued to represent the death and burial of the pagan lifestyle.
- E. Continued to represent being born again (John ch. 3)
- F. It was understood that only the Messiah has the authority to call Israelites to immersion in preparation to receive the New Covenant.

III. Immersion under the ministry of Yeshua & within the Messianic Community

- A. Represented that a believer has been immersed into Messiah & YHVH (Rom. 6:3)
- B. Represented that a believer has been immersed into the death of Yeshua (Rom. 6:3-4)
- C. Represented that a believer has died to the "old man" and its lifestyle (Rom. 6:5-6)
- D. Symbolized that a believer's sins were washed away. (Acts 22:16)

IV. The Baptismal Formula Question?

- A. No baptismal formula was established among the 1st century believers.
- B. The phrase "in the name" (Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:38, 8:16, 10:48, 19:5) does not provide the accurate meaning from the original Greek. The word "in" is not properly translated. The original Greek term is "eis" which literally means "to", "into" and "unto". The proper translation of the phrase is **"into the name"**.