

Baptism In The Old Testament

(And In The New)



Where Did Baptism come From

- Baptism is a word that appears '*out of the blue*' starting with John The Baptist; thus it seems to many.
- How could the Jews, so many Jews, including John The Baptist, get involved with baptism if it was not Jewish?
- We will look at the Jewish Roots of Baptism, in the Old Testament.
- We will get guidance from the New Testament.

Defining Baptism

- A Greek Word: That's why we won't find 'Baptism' in a Hebrew Old Testament
- Baptism: βαπτίζω (baptízō)
- Strong's G907 (from G911)
- 'to immerse, submerge; to makewhelmed; used only (in NT) of ceremonial ablution, especially of the ordinance of Christian Baptism...'

Strong's (from blb.org)

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

βαπτίζω baptízō, bap-tid'-zo; from a derivative of [G911](#); to immerse, submerge; to makewhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism:—Baptist, baptize, wash.

Thayer's (from blb.org)

Thayer's Greek Lexicon [?]

(Jump to Scripture Index)

STRONGS NT 907: βαπτίζω

COLLAPSE

βαπτίζω; [imperfect ἐβάπτιζον]; future βαπτίσω; 1 aorist ἐβάπτισα; passive [present βαπτίζομαι]; imperfect ἐβαπτιζόμην; perfect participle βεβαπτισμένος; 1 aorist ἐβαπτίσθην; 1 future βαπτισθήσομαι; 1 aorist middle ἐβαπτισάμην; (frequently [?] from βάπτω, like βαλλίζω from βάλλω); here and there in Plato, Polybius, Diodorus, Strabo, Josephus, Plutarch, others.

I.

1. properly, **to dip repeatedly, to immerge, submerge** (of vessels sunk, Polybius 1, 51, 6; 8, 8, 4; of animals, Diodorus 1, 36).

2. **to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water**; in the middle and the 1 aorist passive **to wash oneself, bathe**; so Mark 7:4 [where WH text ραντίσονται]; Luke 11:38 (2 Kings 5:14 ἐβαπτίσατο ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ, for לָבַט; Sir. 31:30 (Sir. 34:30); Judith 12:7).

To Find Baptism in OT Look For:

- Salvation Through Water
- Water and Freedom
- Water and Purification / Cleansing
- Water And Consecration Of Priests
- Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection

Salvation Through Water 1

Genesis 6:9-14 ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

Salvation Through Water 2

- Genesis 6:18-19, 6:22

¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ... ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Salvation Through Water 3

1 Peter 3:18-20

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

Salvation Through Water 4

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Salvation Through Water 5

2 Peter 3:5-6

⁵For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

Salvation Through Water 6

1 Peter 3:20-22a

²⁰...because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely **through water.** ²¹**Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you,** not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, ...

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Water and Freedom 1

Exodus 14:15-16 ¹⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

Water and Freedom 2

Exodus 14:19-20

¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Water and Freedom 3

Exodus 14:21-22

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Water and Freedom 4

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 ¹For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

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Water and Purification 1

2 Kings 5:1 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.

Water and Purification 2

2 Kings 5:2-3

²Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

Water and Purification 3

2 Kings 5:9-10 ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."

Water and Purification 4

2 Kings 5:11-12

¹¹But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

Water and Purification 5

2 Kings 5:13-14 ¹³But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Water and Purification 5b

2 Kings 5:14a So he went down and **dipped** himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, ... and he was clean.

The Hebrew for dipped: דִּבְּטַל

In the Septuagint (LXX, the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew) for dipped: ἐβαπτίσατο. This is an OT 'baptism.'

Water and Purification 6

Luke 4:27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

Even Christ found the cleansing of Naaman significant enough to mention.

Water and Purification 7

Acts 22:12-13

¹²"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.

Water and Purification 8

Acts 22:14-16

⁴And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Water and Purification 9

1 Corinthians 6:11

¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

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Water And Consecration Of Priests

1

2 Chronicles 4:1-3 ¹He made an altar of bronze, twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high. ²Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. ³Under it were figures of gourds, for ten cubits, compassing the sea all around. The gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast.

Water And Consecration Of Priests

2

2 Chron. 4:4-5 ⁴It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward. ⁵Its thickness was a handbreadth. And its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held 3,000 baths.

Water And Consecration Of Priests

3

- 3,000 baths in the *sea* of the temple.
- How much water is that?
- 1 bath \approx 22 liters or 5.75 US gal
- 17,250 gal
- 1 Kings 7:26, 2,000 baths (11,500 gal)

Water And Consecration Of Priests

4

Lev. 16:4 He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on.

Lev. 8:6 And Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.

Water And Consecration Of Priests

5

Exodus 30:20 When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the LORD, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die.

Water And Consecration Of Priests

6

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 1

Jonah 1:11-12

¹¹Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you."

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 2

Jonah 1:13-14

- ¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.
- ¹⁴Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you."

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 3

Jonah 1:15-16

⁵So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 4

Jonah 1:17

And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 5

Jonah 2:1-2, 5

¹Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ²saying, "I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. ... ⁵The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head ...

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 6

Jonah 2:7,2:9-10

7When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. ... 9But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" 10And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 7

Jonah 3:1-3

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth.

After the resurrection, comes a Gospel message!

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 8

Matthew 12:38-39 ³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 9

Matthew 12:40-41

⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 10

Colossians 2:11-12 ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 11

Colossians 2:13-14

¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Water: Sacrifice & Resurrection 12

- Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

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