

Water Baptism / Immersion in Water

I want to be clearly understood that when I am saying Immersion I am talking about Baptism, or if I say Raw-khats I am talking about Baptism.

I've heard many people refer to Immersion in Water as a Mikveh.

So we will start with a couple definitions.

The Hebrew word Mikveh means a gathering of water. So a mikvah is a body of water.

Raw-khats is the Hebrew word for Immerse. Raw-khats strong's # 7364 means to lave the whole or a part of a thing; to wash or to bathe, to wash away. The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament states that Raw-khats means to Immerse and Cleanse from sin.

Raw-khats or Immersion in Water, or Water Baptism comes from Torah. The serious idea behind Raw-khats is to be ceremonially clean, or cleansed from sin. We can see examples of this with the consecration of the priests, with the cleansing of the leper, and with everyday people being ceremonially clean.

I see three things that are used as cleansing agents from sin in the bible- blood, water, and torah. 1 Jn.5: 6-8 three that bear witness! The Spirit, Water, Blood! The Father is water and the Son is Blood, The Spirit is the oil! You see this picture over and over. The oil, the water, the blood. The Father, The Spirit, The Son. Eph.5:26 & 1Pet.1:18,19;Ps.119:11

Water cleansing us from Sin:

Isaiah 4:4 wash= rawkhats; notice here that the Lord does the rawkhats!

Isaiah 1:16-20 wash=rawkhats; notice the emphasis here is on you washing yourself

Ezekiel 16:1-9 washed and bathed = rawkhats; notice here that the Father is the one who rawkhats us in the water

So from these verses we can get the understanding of water being a part of cleansing us from sin.

People immersing in water to be clean:

Leviticus 15:1-16

Vs.13 The emphasis here is that one is to wash or immerse or rawkhats or baptize yourself

Also you can notice that the water is not to be stagnant, but living, flowing, running water. The Hebrew word chay or khah'ee means alive- strong's #2416.

Vs.15- First it was the water, now it is the blood being used as a cleansing agent.

Vs.16- here we see that it is the whole body being immersed in water

Vs.31- it appears as though you couldn't enter the tabernacle being unclean

There are several things that could make one unclean in scripture, but immersion in water seems to me to be the remedy to become clean again!

The High Priest Immersing in Water to be clean:

Exodus 29:1-21

Vs.4 – wash them with water; rawkhatz – immerse in water; or baptize them in water

Vs.7- anointing oil

Vs.10-14 blood; this is the sin offering

Vs.11-18 blood this is the burnt offering

Vs.19-21 blood and oil; this is to consecrate the priest and their garments

This is symbolic of Aaron being consecrated to his office by the Blood of the Lamb, to hear the Word of God (the blood on the ear), and to do the Word of God (the hand being symbolic of performing works or doing Torah), and to walk in the Way Torah of God (the blood on the toe).

So we see these agents of water, blood, and oil. I think the water is symbolic of the Father or Torah, and the blood is symbolic of Yeshua, and the oil is symbolic of the Ruach HaKodesh. Of course all these agents come forth from the Father so they all are pointing back to the Father- Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey. Behold the hand of Yah!

You can read in Leviticus 8 the actual performing of this ritual.

The Cleansing of the Leper:

Leviticus 14:1-9

The cleansing of the leper followed a similar procedure of consecrating the priests, and reveals God's compassion for a fallen, sinful and rebellious humanity: Leprosy was seen as the result of sin; or leprosy seems to represent sin.

1. When the leper was healed of his disease, the priest took two birds and killed one and sprinkled the blood on the former leper, who remained out-side the camp seven days.

a. The sacrificed bird speaks of Messiah Yeshua being sacrificed for his cleansing us from sin.

b. The living bird was set free and speaks of the former leper being raised from the dead, so to speak.

c. The leper's healing was set, complete and confirmed on the seventh day. On the seventh day, among other things, **he bathed in water**, symbolic of water baptism, Rawkhats, Immersion in Water for the forgiveness of sin and new life.

Leviticus 14:10-18

2. On the eighth day two lambs were sacrificed for him and **the blood** of the trespass sacrifice was **placed on his right ear, thumb and toe**, just like the High Priest and his sons had done at their consecration! No one else in Israel ever received this.

a. God was declaring that the former leper was as holy as His High Priest and was cleansed, and forgiven to hear, do and walk in Torah.

b. This, of course, speaks of our being as holy as Messiah Yeshua because of His sacrifice as the Lamb of God, where His Blood is placed upon us.

3. Then the priest took some **oil and placed it on the former leper's right ear, thumb and toe, on the blood that was already there.**

a. To further emphasize the former leper as cleansed, acceptable, consecrated and holy to God, the priest had the **anointing oil (symbolic of the Holy Spirit)** placed on his right ear, thumb and big toe, upon the blood of the sacrifice, picturing that the Holy Spirit (oil) was anointing him to hear, do and walk in Torah.

4. The **oil** that was left in the priest's hand **he put upon the head** of the former leper.

Only the High Priest had oil placed (poured) on his head (meaning that not even Aaron's son had oil placed on their heads like this). God was saying that although the leper had been the outcast from God and Israeli society, totally 'sinful,' unclean and unacceptable to the holy God of Israel, the former leper was now as clean, holy and anointed as the High Priest of Israel! No one in scripture was more holy and anointed than the High Priest of Israel.

a. Aaron as High Priest pictures Yeshua as our High Priest and the leper speaks of us because we are all 'leprous' in God's eyes. Leprosy is a skin disease that literally eats away at the skin while the person is alive; it's a living death. Sin (fear, doubt, anger, pride and guilt, etc.) eats away at our souls unless we're healed. Once the leper was healed his life began anew for him and once we come to Messiah Yeshua our life begins anew for us.

In this picture we have 3 elements- The oil, the blood, and the water! Water Baptism or Immersion in Water, Raw-khats was a part of this cleansing and becoming a new creation, born of the Father, through Yeshua, anointed with the Holy Spirit!

I can't help but link the Water, Blood and Oil to the The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! A picture we see over and over again in Scripture. We are cleansed from sin through the blood of Yeshua, Immersed in Water (water is also symbolic of the Word of Yah), and Immersed and filled with the Holy Spirit. One must be born of Water and Spirit (Jn.3) Born of the Father by the Holy Spirit leading you, and immersed in the blood of Yeshua. Born again! Baptism is symbolic of dying to self or to sin, and becoming alive to Yahweh- To live the way He wants you to live!

Having established that baptism is in the torah, we will move on to the new testament to see what it says about water baptism.

John the Baptist was baptizing people before yeshua was crucified; however he was preaching about Yeshua! One comes after me that is mightier than me, and I am not fit to remove his sandals! He was also preaching repentance. Repentance is turning from sin and obeying Yahweh.

Johns baptism was for repentance – Math.3:1-8; they confessed their sins

John turned down those without repentance- they were not obeying Yah, so repentance is a decision to stop sinning and start obeying Yah- so baptism is for those who are ready to repent, turn from sin and obey Yahweh.

Yeshua our example- he was baptized **Math.3:13-17** I'm not sure what Yeshua was referring to when he said to fulfill all righteousness, I know that the commandments of Yahweh are righteousness, maybe this was part of Yeshua becoming the High Priest because the priests were commanded to immerse in water. I do know that Yeshua's baptism was not a baptism of repentance for he was sinless.

Yeshua speaks of baptism- Mark 16:15- however, I'm not sure if he is referring to immersion in water or immersion is the Holy Spirit, or possibly both!

John 3:5 Born of water and Spirit! I think that when we read some of Pauls writings we will see that baptism in water is a type of rebirth, renewal, cleansing, to a newness of life, and to a new creation. Kind of like a before and after picture.

Yeshua baptizes others- John 3:22,23 however if you continue reading in John 4:2 it says Yeshua was not baptizing!

John 3:33-36 Yeshua gives the Spirit without measure

Believe= Faith enough to Trust and Obey!

Disbelieve= Disobedience

Belief= Obedience

As James says- **I will show you my faith by my obedience!**

Baptized in the name of Yeshua! Acts 2:37-39; Acts 10:48

Even those John was baptizing were being baptized in the name of Yeshua, and told to believe in Yeshua- **Acts 19:4**

Baptism is symbolic of dying to self and living to Messiah-Romans 6:1-7

New Creation

Romans 6:4 what is this newness of life? Torah Obedience! You are a slave to whom you obey whether sin resulting in death or obedience resulting in righteousness. Present yourself as instruments of Torah!

Colossians 2:9-14 Baptism in water is symbolic of being buried with Yeshua and therefore dead to sin and being alive with Yeshua therefore keeping Torah!

Galatians 3:27 clothe yourself with Yeshua

Colossians 3:5-11 putting on the newness of life

Eph.4:21-24 lay aside old self and put on new self

2 Cor.5:14-17 – New creature, old things past away, all

False Baptisms-

What about **Catholicism?**

I Peter 3:21 This is one of the verses they use to say that baptism saves you.

But this very verse declares that baptism in water by itself doesn't save you but simply removes the dirt of the flesh. Baptism needs to be an appeal to Yahweh for the forgiveness of sins as you confess your sins and repent.

They baptize their babies at birth in water? Does this count?

Well it's not scriptural to baptize your child at birth.

Infant baptism is something they do based on the idea that it saves you and removes original sin.

The bible also teaches us that water baptism by itself doesn't save you. The sinner on the cross next to Yeshua repented, and Yeshua granted him eternal life. Now that man didn't have a chance to get baptized, did he?

Water baptism doesn't remove sin.

It's symbolic of dying to the sinful life that you once lived and are choosing to lay aside or die too, and being alive to Yahweh through Yeshua choosing a life of obedience to the Fathers Torah.

Now one could **dedicate** their baby to God, through prayer and presenting him to the elders of the church to lay hands on him, and anointing him with oil, but this doesn't have anything to do with baptism in water.

Mormons believe in baptism on behalf of the dead. **I Cor.15:29**

I think the bible teaches us that even prayer on behalf of the dead is in vain. Once a person is dead they will get no help, no second chances; they will stand before God and He will either see the blood of Yeshua and His righteousness in you; giving you right standing with God; or He will see you in your sinful state and you will be cast into the lake of fire.

Question I always get asked- I was baptized in a Christian church should I get rebaptized- I think this is a personal decision- my experience- if you feel that its necessary then go for it- Yeshua only died once

G907

βαπτίζω

baptizō

baṗ-tid'-zo

From a derivative of [G911](#); **to make whelmed (that is, fully wet)**; used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial *ablution*, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian *baptism*: - baptist, baptize, wash.

G911

βάπτω

baptō

baṗ'-to

A primary verb; **to whelm, that is, cover wholly with a fluid**; in the New Testament only in a qualified or specific sense, that is, (literally) to *moisten* (a part of one's person), or (by implication) **to stain** (as with dye): - dip.

Baptism is like being marked, like being stained by the blood of Yeshua, it's a seal of Yahweh, even a sign of the covenant you are entering into with Yahweh. It's a public proclamation of your decision to believe in Yeshua as Messiah and follow and obey Yahweh's commandments. It's an opportunity for you to be part of a fellowship and be held accountable to the standards of Yahweh.