



**What Does  
the  
Bible  
Say  
about Baptism?**

By  
Scott Saltsman

# What Does the Bible Say about *Baptism*?

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There is a cloud of confusion swirling today around the ceremony of baptism. There is a crowd of conflicting ideas calling for one's attention. Like unwanted plants in a wheat field, traditions and a lack of study have produced several different doctrines. Our question is an effort to set aside all the opinions and doctrines and discover God's Word about baptism. This is a "*roll up your sleeves and start digging*" kind of Bible study. May the Lord bless each one who seeks Truth.

The following is a table that will help provide an overview of our word study:

## The New American Standard New Testament Greek Lexicon

**Strong's Number:** 907

**Original Word**  
**Word Origin**

### NAS Verse Count

βαπτίζω

from a derivative of 911 βαπτο Bapto

**Transliterated Word**

Theological Dictionary of the New Testament Baptizo

1:529,92

**Phonetic Spelling**

**Parts of Speech**

*bap-tid'-zo*

**New American Standard Word Usage -**

Baptist 3, baptize 9, baptized 51, baptizes 1, baptizing 10, ceremonially washed 1, undergo 1

### Definition

1. to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
2. to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
3. to overwhelm

Not to be confused with 911, bapto. The clearest example that shows the meaning of baptizo is a text from the Greek poet and physician, Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (bapto) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptising the vegetable, produces a permanent change. When used in the New Testament, this word more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. e.g. Mark 16:16. 'He that believes and is baptised shall be saved'. Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle! Bible Study Magazine, James Montgomery Boice, May 1989.

Greek lexicon based on Thayer's and Smith's Bible Dictionary plus others; this is keyed to the large Kittel and the "Theological Dictionary of the New Testament." These files are public domain.

11/18/03 <http://www.biblestudytools.net/Lexicons/Greek/grk.cgi?number=907&version=nas911>

# Comparison Chart

## Sprinkling, Pouring, Immersion

### Viewing Baptism through Scripture

Place an "X" in each column that fits the text.

- There may be an "X" in all three columns for some verses.
- There may be an "X" on two columns for some verses.
- There may be an "X" in only one column for some verses.

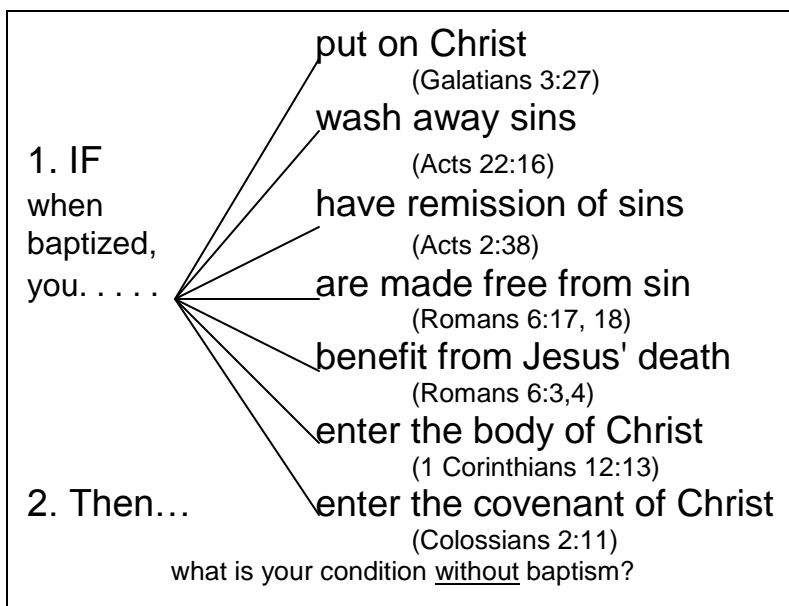
New Testament Baptism Requires	Sprinkling Requires	Pouring Requires	Immersion Requires
Acts 10:47      Water			
John 3:23      Much water			
Matthew 3:13      Going to water			
Mark 1:9      Administered in water			
Acts 8:38      Down into water			
Matthew 3:16      Coming out of the water			
Romans 6:1-4      A burial			
Colossians 2:13      A resurrection			
1 Corinthians 10:1,2      Surrounded by water			
Hebrews 10:22      Bodies washed			

There is a great difference between these three Greek words:

- Rantisma ραντισμα - *to sprinkle*
- Cheo χηεο - *to pour*
- Baptizo βαπτιζω- *to immerse, dip, plunge*

God's plan for saving mankind is simple! A person may read about the first church and what was taught. It is in Acts. Thousands of people were saved by God's grace through Hearing, Believing, Repenting, & being Baptized.

Let us not change the plan God has given!



Five Baptisms found in the New Testament							
	Nature	Purpose	By	Subjects	Element	Act	Duration
John's	Commandment Luke 7:29,30	Prepare for Messiah Jn 1:31; Lk 3:3-6 Acts 19:4	John Mark 1:5	Repentant Jews Mark 1:4,5	Water John 1:26	Immersion Mark 1:10 John 3:23	Ceased before the Cross Acts 19:3-5
Suffering	Experience Mark 10:38,39	1. to bring salvation. I Peter 2:24 II Cor 1:5,6 2. Resulting glory. Heb. 12:2 II Tim. 2:12	Wicked men Acts 2:23 II Thess. 3:12	1. Jesus Mk 10:38 2. His followers Mk 10:39	Suffering Mk 10:39	Overwhelming Matt 27:46-50	1. On the cross Matt 27:50 2. Till Jesus returns II Tim. 3:12
Holy Spirit	Promise Acts 1:4,5	1. to empower for special work Acts 1:8; Jn 16:13 Jn 14:26; II Cor. 12:12 2. to prove God's acceptance of the Gentiles Acts 11:15-18	Christ Matt 3:11	1. Apostles Acts 2:1-4 2. Cornelius' household Acts 11:15-18	Holy Spirit Matt 3:11	Overpowering Matt 10:19-20 Acts 2:4	Occurred but twice. Acts 2:10 Each a special case
Fire	Warning Matt 3:11,12	Punishment Matt 25:45,46	Christ Matt 3:11	Wicked Matt 3:10 II Thess 1:7,8	Fire Matt 3:11	Overwhelming Rev 20:15	Everlasting Matt 25:41
Christ's	Commandment Matt 28:19 Mk 16:16 Acts 2:38	Forgiveness Acts 2:38 I Peter 3:21	Disciples Matt 28:19	Repentant believers Mk 16:16 Acts 2:38	Water Acts 8:36-39	Immersion Rom 6:3-5	Till the end Mat 28:19,20

## **Water, Water *Everywhere!***

### God's use of H<sub>2</sub>O in the Old Testament

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Study how God has used water throughout His dealings with mankind and discover a firmer foundation for faith! We will also realize the validity of God's use of water today. The following is only intended to provide an outline for your study.

1. The Creation (Genesis 1:2,6,7)
2. The Great Flood. (Genesis 6:7; 7:4,23)
  - a. Compare "to blot" or "to wipe" in Psalm 51:1,9; Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 18:23.
  - b. Consider Peter's inspired commentary in 1 Peter 3:18-22.
3. The life and ministry of Moses
  - a. His "ark of salvation" on the Nile river (Exodus 2:10)
  - b. Met his wife, Zipporah, by a well. (Exodus 2:15-22)
  - c. Turned water to blood by God's power. (Exodus 7:14-25)
  - d. Divided the waters of the Red Sea by God's power.  
(Exodus 14:13-31; 1 Corinthians 10:1,2)
  - e. The water (of life) from the rock at Horeb. (Exodus 17:1-6; 1 Corinthians 10:4)
  - f. The water (of life) from the rock at Meribah (Horeb). (Numbers 20:8-13)
4. Joshua led the Israelites through the Jordan River into the Promised Land. (Joshua 3:14-17)
5. The miracle of dew on Gideon's fleece. (Judges 6:37-40)
6. God saved Samson with water. (Judges 15:14-20)
7. Elijah and Elisha cross the Jordan River on dry land. (2 Kings 2:8-14)
8. Jonah's 3-day "burial" at sea and his "resurrection to service. (Jonah)
9. Purification in (of) Israel
  - a. Washing the peoples' clothes before Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 19:10,11)
  - b. Washing of the priests before service. (Exodus 29:4; 30:17-20)
  - c. Washing of a sacrifice. (Exodus 29:17)
  - d. Washing of a leper and his clothes. (Leviticus 13:6; 14:8,9)
  - e. The Hebrew word meaning "to wash, to be washed," "***kabas***," occurs 51 times in the Old Testament: 31 times in Leviticus (21 times in chapters 13-15). This is the same word used in Psalm 51:2,7; Jeremiah 2:22; 4:14. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, ***kabas*** is translated by the Greek word ***pluno***. This word occurs in Revelation 7:14 and 22:14.<sup>1</sup>
  - f. Job speaks of washing with snowmelt water and cleansing with lye. (Job 9:30)
    - o What is STILL the result if Job washes himself?
  - g. Ezekiel writes of cleansing with water. (Ezekiel 36:22-26)

<sup>1</sup>The Old Testament Foundation for Christian Baptism by Gary H. Hall, Christian Standard, August 29, 1993.