

# Baptism



## *Burial into Life*

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by  
**Elder Jacob O. Meyer**

# BAPTISM

## *Burial into Life*

Throughout nominal Christianity, New Testament Messianic baptism has been a doctrine that has troubled and puzzled laymen and theologians alike. Numerous different methods of baptism have been proposed and utilized, from immersion to pouring, sprinkling, or no baptism at all. Some groups have even baptized converts with a fire hose.

Various groups and individuals administer baptism in the Savior's Name, while others use the formula appearing in the **King James** translation of Matthew 28:19: **"...in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]."** Various groups insist upon baptizing out of doors, in a lake or stream of running water, while other groups baptize their converts at a baptismal font or in a baptistry.

Furthermore, little agreement exists regarding the proper age for baptism, since some groups baptize infants, only days or weeks old, while other groups baptize only adults.

Can some straightforward Scriptures be found that will cut through the maze of confusion and eliminate false doctrine? Are there **fundamental Scriptures** which will allow us to understand the truth so that we may please our Heavenly Father with humble obedience? We can surely answer in the affirmative.

by

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With the guidance of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh a diligent search of the Scriptures will bring forth the clear answers to our questions.

Baptism is often believed to have originated in the New Testament with **John the Baptist** and his message of repentance. The records of the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, explain that the days of the Messiah were preceded by a reconciliation ministry to all Israel by John the Baptist. John arrived upon the scene preaching a doctrine of repentance, turning **away** from **SIN** toward a new life in anticipation of the establishment of the Kingdom. His ministry was to pave the way for the coming of the Messiah. As a pledge that a person was sincere in beginning a righteous life in expectation of the arrival of the Messianic Kingdom of Yahweh, John administered a ritual cleansing. This is how he received his renowned appellation, "John the Baptist."

John was born and educated as a priest; consequently, he was well instructed in the law of Yahweh. Baptism was not a ceremony which he alone had invented. Few people today seem to realize that a ritual cleansing was an integral part of the Old Testament. John used this precedent as a pattern for the ritual

cleansing which he administered to repentant sinners.

In the Old Testament it was commanded that Moses, Aaron, and the priests should wash their hands and feet when they entered the sanctuary, Exodus 40:30-32. To be cleansed of uncleanness, whether through a disease or an impurity, he was required to take a complete bath. For example, the passages of Leviticus 14 and 15 provide substantiation. Note the term "running water" in the **King James** translation which in the Hebrew is "living water."

In order to explain accurately the doctrine of baptism, we must first determine the meaning of the word. *Baptism* is derived from the Greek word **baptizo**, meaning "to whelm or plunge under liquid." There can be no other definition than this. If we were to translate it properly into English we would have to use "immersion."

The word **baptize** is a transliteration of the Greek word **baptizo**. In **Strong's Concordance** Greek Dictionary, #907, it is defined as, "To make whelmed (i.e. fully wet), and is used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution." The root of this word is **Strong's** #911 and it means "to whelm, i.e. to cover wholly with a fluid..." The word has been translated "dip."

The Arndt and Gingrich translation of the Walter Bauer **Greek**

**Lexicon** shows that the word **baptizo** means *to dip, plunge, or overwhelm*. In the papyri the word means, “plunge, sink, drench, or overwhelm.” It has been used in the Greek classics for the sinking of a fleet of ships.

Hebrew New Testament versions in every edition use the word **taval** (#2881 in **Strong’s**) and this word means *to dip or plunge*. It is therefore clearly obvious that the biblical terms used for the ritual cleansing of believers means a complete immersion of the body INTO water.

### ***A New Custom?***

No form of complete ritual cleansing is recognized by the Bible other than immersion. Even today, many orthodox synagogues retain a “mikvah” for a ritual cleansing. A mikvah can be described as a large tank of water in which a person immerses himself while a holy person recites prayers over him.

Also, one of the basic requirements for a proselyte to enter Judaism is a ritual immersion in water. Consequently, the student will recognize that John the Baptist was not formulating a new custom unique to the Christian religion, but that he merely followed previously existing traditions and laws in use in his time. Possibly John had some communication with the Qumran sectaries who popularized a ritual cleansing during that era. They were situated very near where John ministered in the Judean desert.

Let us examine some additional evidence that immersion or baptism was widely used in the Old Testament. During the time of Elisha the prophet, Naaman, the supreme commander of the Syrian army, came to Israel to find healing for his leprosy, 2 Kings chapter 5. Upon his inquiry, Elisha, Yahweh’s ordained prophet, commanded him to go and **dip** himself seven times in the Jordan River. After Naaman hesitated and expressed his anger, his

servants persuaded their leader to follow Elisha’s directions. Thereupon he was immediately healed of his malady.

Even the ancient patriarch Jacob, along with his family, after coming to a state of repentance, had to submit to a ritual cleansing. A mistake which casual Bible readers frequently make is their belief that the characters around which the Bible is built were living righteous lives from their youth. This is a grave and misleading error. Many of the central actors in the scriptural drama only reached a state of complete repentance late in life, but the Scriptures record their entire life history. The Bible does not distinguish the exact moment when they finally arrived at submissive repentance.

In the case of Jacob, the time of his conversion is recorded. His moment of sincere repentance came when he wrestled with the angel of Yahweh in Genesis 32:22-30. He had arrived at the brook Jabbok (Hebrew means *emptying*) and came face to face with Elohim. The Angel of Yahweh had to **disable** Jacob by injuring his thigh, so He could deal with this first Israelite.

After this incident, Yahweh revealed to Jacob that something additional beside repentance was needed. In Genesis 35:1-3 we find the instructions which Jacob then relays to his family.

***“And Elohim said to Jacob, Arise, go up to Beth-el, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto El, who appeared unto you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the foreign elohim that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your garments: and let us arise, and go up to Beth-el; and I will make there an altar unto El, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.”***

Can you see here the perfect type of our own exodus from sin for this New Testament age? Jacob told his family, “Put away the strange mighty ones [turn away from false mighty ones, and return to the True Worship of the true Mighty One Yahweh and obey Him]. Be clean [this term in the Hebrew is always used for a ritual cleansing, baptism if you please]. Change your garments [put on robes of righteousness and change your ways, be converted]. Return to Bethel (the House of El), and make an altar (a worship) unto El which appeared as a helper in my distress.”

It is truly **astonishing** how many types and allegories of New Testament salvation may be discovered in the Old Testament accounts. As we see the message in each instance, it should build our faith substantially.

When the nation of ancient Israel made their united exodus from Egypt, we may again observe a type of spiritual salvation. In fact it was Paul who states in 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 that this miraculous escape from Egypt through the **Yam Suph** (Red Sea) represented a type of baptism. ***“For I do not wish, brethren, to have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 and were all baptized to Moses in the cloud and the sea.”***

As Israel proceeded out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, they were surrounded by water—baptism in type. Coming through the water as they did (baptism), they came up into the pillar of cloud (a type of Yahweh’s Holy Spirit).

Furthermore, Peter states that it was a type of baptism which saved Noah, as only eight people found salvation in those days of judgment of Yahweh upon sinful mankind, 1 Peter 3:21. They were brought through the flood waters by an ark. Therefore, ***coming through the waters*** they were spared.

From the New Testament we shall obtain some additional examples of the importance of baptism. Yahshua the Messiah, just before He entered His dynamic ministry, came to John and requested immersion. John replied that it was he who should be baptized by Yahshua. The Messiah was sinless, needing no ritual cleansing. But, He informed His cousin John: "Permit me now: for thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness."

Yahshua the Messiah as an example to us (and to every sinner), requested and accepted the ritual cleansing of water baptism. Now notice, in both Matthew 3:16 and Mark 1:10, when Yahshua had been baptized, He came up **out of the water**. If John had baptized by sprinkling or pouring, sufficient water could have readily been drawn from a well. But, the exact reason why he was baptizing at the Jordan River and at Enon near Salim, was because there *was MUCH water there*, sufficient for immersing the repentant one TOTALLY in the water, John 3:23.

In the New Testament assembly, Philip was told by the Holy Spirit to accompany the Ethiopian eunuch a short way on his journey toward his home. After doing some earnest teaching, Philip clearly showed Yahshua the Messiah to the eunuch, as the anointed King whom Yahweh would send back to this earth to rule it in righteousness as the Savior of all who will be in the Kingdom. Consequently, the eunuch, realizing his lost state, requested baptism, Acts 8:36. After making his confession of faith, the eunuch and Philip who would immerse him went down **into the water**, verse 38. After the immersion, they both came up **out of the water**, verse 39. Again it was obvious that a **total immersion** took place. This is the ONLY accurate scriptural method of baptism.

The mode and meaning of baptism has mystified many people in the past. Various denominations

have made it into a sort of initiation ceremony. The scriptural explanation of baptism makes such good, logical sense. Turning to Isaiah 1:16-17, we read, "**Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well...**" In this passage the prophet Isaiah transmits the instructions of Yahweh which outline the way to salvation. The steps are as follows: a) **repentance** (stop doing evil); b) **baptism** (cleansing); c) **a converted life** (learning to do well).

Israel as a nation had fallen into spiritual deterioration. Almighty Yahweh was calling them to repentance. However, they refused to repent and eventually both the house of Israel and the nation of Judah were taken into captivity. Judah returned after 70 years, but Israel never did. After a most eventful history, Judah was conquered by the Romans.

Their all-consuming desire was that Yahweh would send the Messiah to establish again the Davidic dynasty, the government of Israel. In preparation for this Messianic government, the people of Judah were brought to a state of sincere repentance through the dynamic preaching of John the Baptist. After hearing the message they pledged their conversion with a ritual cleansing. They understood that to enter the righteous Kingdom of the Messiah they would have to be pure and clean, just as Yahweh had commanded, Isaiah 35:8.

In our time we again are looking forward to the imminent establishment of the Kingdom of Yahweh. This righteous government will be taking over the rule of this earth within just a few short years. The end-time message of repentance in anticipation of this Kingdom is going out today with increasing power and scope.

If we look around ourselves we may see this world in a state of moral and spiritual deterioration

and slumber which can only be described as the era of **Laodicea**. Emerging from this era will be a refined and perfected people who look with eager anticipation for the establishment of Yahweh's Kingdom. These people are pledging their sincerity with the same identical baptism, a ritual cleansing followed by a converted life, similar to the Apostolic Assembly. **By their spiritual cleansing they are preparing to have a part in Yahshua the Messiah's Kingdom.**

### **When Is Conversion?**

What kind of repentance is necessary before baptism? What qualities must the applicant possess? When does conversion take place? As a minister of Yahweh, I always counsel with a person about his spiritual life prior to immersion. Before I baptize any person, I desire to see in the life and attitude of the one who has requested baptism, some definite signs (known in the Bible as fruits) indicating that he is sincere about his anticipated step. Baptism is a pledge or irrevocable commitment to Yahweh and His Covenant agreement, an oath, if you please, that one has completely renounced the old life, the unclean old man, and that he is ready to begin a new life which will eventually lead into the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Repentance means to be so broken up and sorry for our past life that one desires to his innermost being to serve Yahweh, to be obedient to His laws which will universally govern the earth in the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Conversion means to change. It means that while we were going away from Yahweh at one time in our lives, now we have made a 180 degree turn and are coming back to Him. The meaning of conversion is to change, recreate, or remake a sinner into a saint.

Repentance and conversion denotes our desire to see the Kingdom

established, so that righteousness may rule this earth. It means that we accept the absolute rule of Almighty Yahweh in our lives. We have seen from actual experience that separation from Yahweh will bring only heartache, and as a consequence we desire to live for Him regardless what it may cost us along life's pathway. We understand that the rebellious, wicked people will perish for their sins, and conversely we desire to be saved by Yahweh.

Once this state of true, total repentance has been reached, when the old ways and wicked life are abhorred, and the person desires to begin a new life, (the "Kingdom of Yahweh life"), then he should be baptized. Often I am asked the question, "At what age should this take place?" Actually there is no predetermined age except that we must be willing to adhere completely to the scriptural standards. Many ministers say that this should be when a person reaches the age of accountability. The Bible defines the age of accountability as 20 years. This is the age Yahweh delineates for when a man knows **right** from **wrong** and *truly* understands for HIMSELF the consequences of his actions, Deuteronomy 1:39. However, each individual is unique and some people develop more understanding earlier or later than others.

I have noticed also that the age of 30 appears to mark a milestone or watershed point in the lives of many people. At this age, a person reaches a level of maturity. He begins to scrutinize and evaluate his life carefully with a different viewpoint, perhaps realizing that half his allotted years are now behind him, while he wishes to live eternally. You will recall that Yahshua the Messiah was 30 when He was baptized.

A young person (under 20) should never be baptized while caught up in an emotional experience after sitting through a particularly convicting sermon. This sometimes

happens in Christianity. Baptism should be administered **ONLY** when a person knows the importance of the step and *has resolved without reservation to be faithful to the end*. By entering the water of baptism the repentant individual makes a very solemn vow to **Almighty Yahweh** that can **NEVER** be recanted.

### **Who Is Qualified to Baptize?**

After a person has reached the point of sincere repentance, who should he ask to baptize him? Although many people may reject the biblical concept as denominational arrogance, your Bible affirms that **only one group of people on this earth** at any given time are the true people of Yahweh and **the body of the Messiah. An ECUMENICAL doctrine that many different groups, each preaching a different doctrine, are all in the Body of the Messiah is not sound teaching.** The dedicated person will search until he finds that one group of people who perfectly conform to the description of the body of the Messiah which is set forth in the Bible. The starting point at which to begin such a thorough search should be at Revelation 12:17 and 14:12.

If you for some time have read literature published by the Assemblies of Yahweh, you will recognize only one group of people on this earth today is keeping **all of the commandments** of Yahweh, yet in addition have the faith in the Messiah. That group is the **Assemblies of Yahweh**. We strive to be the Body of the Messiah. The Assemblies of Yahweh has dedicated ministers available who will be happy to counsel with you concerning your baptism.

In reiteration of previous statements, it should be apparent that a holy man must perform this required immersion, a man who teaches all of the truth of the Scrip-

tures and recognizes the importance of living in dedicated anticipation of the soon-coming Kingdom of the Heavens. Yahshua commissioned His **disciples** to baptize repentant believers. Similarly, today His *ordained ministers* baptize under His authority and in His **Name**.

### **The Method**

The next, frequent, question we must answer relates to the method to be used in baptism.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 6 gives us a graphic description of the method of baptism. Let us examine this passage closely to determine how plainly baptism is explained for us.

Notice verse 2, "**By no means. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live in it?**" Now we may begin to understand more candidly the necessity for baptism. We must first DIE to ourselves spiritually. The old man, spiritually speaking, who lived in opposition and disobedience to Almighty Yahweh and His Covenant Law must die if a new spiritual life can come forth. Now certainly, if a farmer has a dead animal to dispose of, he wouldn't merely sprinkle a few grains of sand on it and call it a burial, would he? He would hardly place a dead chicken on the ground and pour a **cup** of ground on it and call it a **burial!** Furthermore, you can't allow dead animals to lie around. Similarly, you can't let dead spiritual attitudes around, contaminating the heart. On occasion I have stated, tongue in cheek, "Perhaps the reason why so many Christians remain such devoted sinners is that they haven't buried the old man in immersion baptism." It is imperative for the repentant person to have a complete cleansing through burial in water to show Yahweh that he indeed is cleansed from his past life.

Verse 3 makes this even more emphatic. "**Or are you ignorant that all we who were baptized**

***into the Messiah Yahshua were baptized into his death?*** If we substitute the word “immersed” for “baptized” we acquire the necessary enlightenment to comprehend that when we are immersed into Yahshua the Messiah, we are plunged under the water in the likeness of His death, into a symbolic grave.

No one that I know would ever bury a person on his face. They are always buried on their backs, just as the Messiah was placed in the sepulchre on His back, at His burial. Remember that our immersion is described as a burial.

Further verification may be found in verse 4. ***“We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as the Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.”*** In addition to the burial, Paul’s description now inaugurates the concept of a resurrection. He informs us that when we come out of the baptismal waters we will begin a new life. A new leaf has been turned over. The dead sinner gives way to a new saint. Similarly, the human body will come forth ***from a grave*** changed into spirit that will live for all eternity.

Verse 5 makes this concept even plainer. ***“For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection [raised to immortality].”*** How plain and simple then! Baptism is a death and burial of our old degrading carnal human nature. It also represents a resurrection to a completely new spiritual life, a new begettal, so that we can walk in the righteous “Kingdom way of life” which has been blueprinted for us in the Bible.

Additionally, the ceremony of baptism represents a type of our ultimate physical death, with the promised resurrection to an incorruptible, immortal life for the saints of Yahweh. If Yahshua carries, our

bodies must all be planted in the earth just as seed is planted, so that we can be raised with the resurrection spiritual body which has been energized by the Holy Spirit of Yahweh.

Baptism can be administered in running water, but the real meaning of a complete burial is the essential meaning. The picture of a person going down into the water as a dirty sinner and coming forth as a cleansed saint is the most important concept of baptism, just as long as enough water is available to simulate the burial.

### ***Baptized into the Name***

Another baffling problem which has perplexed so many groups in the past involves the Name in which we must be baptized. Some people point to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and baptize in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: **but they never use a Name!** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not names, but titles.

Actually, there is no discrepancy here at all. Yahshua the Messiah says in John 5:43, “I have come in my Father’s name.” In John 14:26 He informs us that the Spirit would be sent by the Father in the Messiah’s Name. So the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit **are all contained in one Name, the only Name under Heaven, given among men whereby we must be saved, Acts 4:12. This is the Name of Yahshua the Messiah.**

When we call upon this Name which means “*Yahweh is salvation,*” we will receive forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 9:6) and we will be considered to be sons of Yahweh (1 John 3:2). True New Testament Messianic water baptism must be administered in His true Name, the Name which He was actually given. If you take into account **Acts 4:12** and grant it the authority it deserves, **what does it say?** The obvious message is that no one can be saved unless they are baptized

into the Name of **Yahshua!** Have you been so baptized? If not, you have no salvation.

Should we be baptized “in” His Name or “into” His Name? There should be no conflict over this point. The minister who is doing the baptizing is doing so, *in*, or **by the authority of the Messiah Himself.** It is just as though the Messiah Himself were there doing the immersing when one of His true ordained ministers of His body of believers plunges the individual under the water in the likeness of Messiah’s death. The minister does not baptize for himself, but in the place of the Messiah and for His own blood-bought earthly organization, John 4:1-2.

When the minister immerses a person, it is *into* the Messiah’s Name. The person who is baptized henceforth will bear the saving Name of the spiritual family, Ephesians 3:14-15.

Just as a ***bride takes on*** the name of her husband, so we will take on the Messiah’s Name and become a part of His body, a member of His bride, anticipating His return and His Kingdom. Although we do not at the time of baptism change our names given to us by our earthly parents, we do change our spiritual names. We exchange the name of a pagan mighty one we once worshiped for the revealed personal Name of the true Mighty One, Yahweh, and the true Name of our Redeemer and King, Yahshua the Messiah.

This is why it is so **vitaly important** that we must be baptized into the **correct Name** when we make our **eternal commitment** (covenant) to Almighty Yahweh and His Messiah, after having renounced the sinful life as servants of Satan. We cannot enter into the body of True Worshipers unless we bear the personal Name of Yahweh and His Messiah Yahshua. (Do you have our article on the Messiah’s True Name? If not, write in immediately and request it. It is free for

the asking when you write to the Assemblies of Yahweh; Drawer C; Bethel, PA 19507.

### ***The Laying on of Hands***

The Bible reveals that the only way the believer may receive the Holy Spirit is to qualify by expressing his obedience through submitting to a cleansing spiritual bath, water baptism. The early Apostles always laid hands on those who had been immersed and these qualified believers received the Holy Spirit, which will take up residence **ONLY** in a *clean vessel*, Isaiah 52:11, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

We have received a most definite, absolute assurance that when we have been immersed into the Name of Yahshua the Messiah, we will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:38-39. This gift of holy life is transmitted to the believers by a laying on of hands of the Spirit-filled elders of Yahweh's true Assembly (I Timothy 4:14). This Holy Spirit is the life and personality from Almighty Yahweh and our Savior Yahshua the Messiah, taking up residence within our bodies to assist us in living a perfect life in Yahshua the Messiah, aiding us

in keeping all of the commandments of Yahweh perfectly. This is the spiritual life which will carry us into the Kingdom of Yahweh. The Holy Spirit will lead us toward our adoption into the very family of Elohim, when we are called *sons* and *daughters* of Yahweh. After the resurrection the saved believers will be called by the Name of Yahweh which means eternal life, everlasting existence. Already we are allowed to use this Name because the body of True Worshipers must be called the *Assemblies of Yahweh*.

After baptism most evangelical Christians believe they are immediately **SAVED**. But, such a doctrine is built upon eternal security, which is erroneous. When is someone saved? Matthew 24:13 tells us: "***But he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved.***" Consequently, we must **endure** the tests and trials of life until the end of our lives or until Yahshua returns. At baptism we receive the earnest of the **down payment** of the Holy Spirit, 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5 and Ephesians 1:14. We do not have the fullness of the Spirit, but only a portion to carry us through to our goal of eternal life. We are begotten again by the Holy Spirit

and we *will be born again at the resurrection*, 1 John 5:1-8. We must follow the example of Yahshua the Messiah who was the firstborn from the dead at HIS resurrection, Revelation 1:5 and Colossians 1:18.

As you can see for yourself, this subject of baptism is so plain and simple when the original Inspired Scriptures build the firm foundation of understanding. There is nothing mysterious or confusing about this vital step necessary when embarking upon the pathway to our salvation. It is so reasonable and rational

Now the next step is up to you. If you have not as yet been baptized properly, immersed into the Savior's true Name, taking on His nature and personality, then why not give some serious consideration to it right now? Your spiritual growth will be impeded until you do. Remember, unless you qualify according to Acts 2:38 you cannot receive the Holy Spirit or be saved.

For more information, write or call:

**The Assemblies of Yahweh,  
Bethel, PA 19507**

**Phone: (717) 933-4518.**

One of Yahweh's ordained elders will be happy to discuss this subject with you. □

## ***Rebaptism into Yahshua's Name? How Important?***

When an individual first learns the importance of using the Sacred Name of our Heavenly Father **Yahweh** and the Name of His Son, **Yahshua** the Messiah, he is confronted with a dilemma. Usually he has been a member of a church and has already been baptized. Some of those sincere people have previously belonged to groups that strongly emphasized that they were the only true body of the Messiah; consequently, they feel

that they have been properly baptized and have received the Holy Spirit. Let us analyze this perplexing problem as the Bible teaches it.

First, one must ask himself, "Have I been baptized into the Name of Yahshua the Messiah?" The obvious answer is probably not, nor were they baptized by a minister who represented Yahweh's Messiah, Yahshua. It is only those who humbly obey our Heavenly Father who

receive His gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:32.

Therefore, any form of baptism then-whether in the titles (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) or in the name of J-s-s (Acts 4:12, neither is there salvation in any other...), trine immersion, or sprinkling, pouring, or even baptism with a fire hose-has not fulfilled the conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit.

What are the requirements? The repentant believer must seek out

a representative of Yahshua the Messiah and His true one body. There is only one true body of faithful believers on earth at any one time. They all work together as a unit, in one accord, bound together by the Holy Spirit, bearing its fruits. Read carefully John 13:34-35; John 17; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:1-6. Messiah is not divided, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. Yahshua, as Head of the Body, will have instructed His representative to baptize correctly-by immersion and in Messiah's true Name.

One cannot say that he has received the Holy Spirit until he is baptized correctly and has fulfilled all requirements, Acts 2:38-39. ***“And Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah to the remission of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as Yahweh our***

***Elohim shall call to him.***” If you have not been baptized according to these instructions you cannot be certain that you have salvation. You should take immediate measures to fulfill those requirements!

If you have been previously baptized (although incorrectly even though you were sincere), there is sufficient evidence to prove that you should be rebaptized properly into Yahshua's Name as soon as you have repented. There is only one true baptism, all others do not satisfy the conditions. A situation such as this arose in Ephesus. Read carefully Acts 19:1-7.

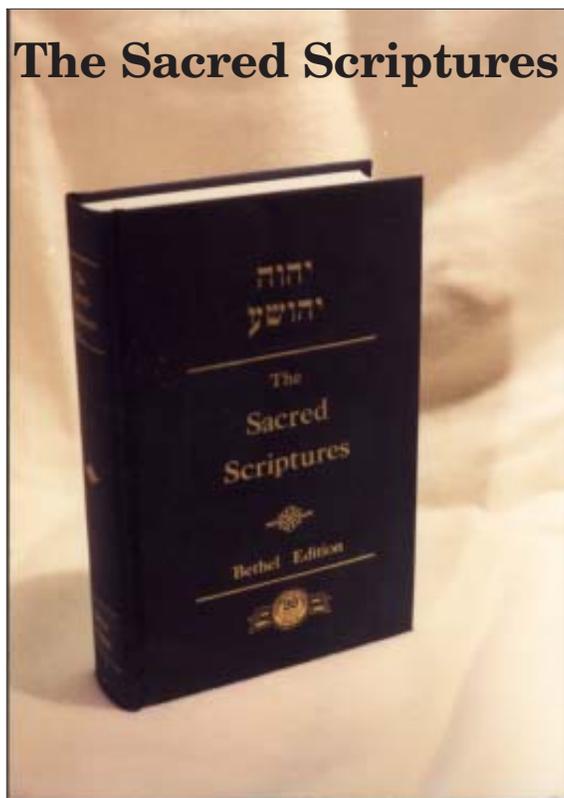
“Into what then were you baptized?” asked Paul. “John's baptism,” came the reply. John baptized for repentance. Everyone who is baptized in ch-rchianity (except infants) were baptized while in a repentant attitude (although some didn't know what they were really repenting of). Today church baptism parallels John's baptism, but is ineffective to give you the Holy Spirit or point

you toward the pathway to salvation. Baptism into the Name of Yahshua the Messiah is essential if you wish to be saved.

Can anyone receive the Holy Spirit before baptism? Some people believe so. However, the only evidence of this ever happening was in the case of Cornelius (Acts chapter 10). That gift was meant to be a sign for the Apostle Peter and his associates, who were practicing Jews, to accept those repentant Gentiles that Yahweh had called. To insist that the Holy Spirit can be received without scriptural baptism cannot be supported by the Sacred Scriptures.

Now you must make the decision. Do you believe the Bible or don't you? You can spurn what you have read—and suffer the consequences. Or, you can yield yourself to the Word of Almighty Yahweh and Yahshua, His Messiah. Don't allow such a significant, yet so small an act, to keep you from eternal life in the Kingdom of Yahweh. □

## The Sacred Scriptures



***The Assemblies of Yahweh present this volume, The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition, to the reader in our humble endeavor to give you a special gift of greater biblical knowledge. We have restored the Sacred Name, Yahweh (the Tetragrammaton) and proper titles to the English text of the Old Testament as well as returning the Name of Yahshua, our Savior, to the text of the New Testament.***

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