

New Testament study of the word “Baptize”

Very often the use of a word in the Bible lends more to its true definition than does the definition as laid out by man. Such is the case in this study. The first definition shown is from *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* of New Testament words. The second definition, for the same word (baptize), is taken from *Thayer's*.

The passages where we find the words in this study give us a clear picture of the true Biblical meaning of “baptism.” Although short, it is a deep study. It reveals to us the heart of God and His purpose for us. Please read it carefully, and take into consideration the article [Conquering the Greatest Enemy](#). Let us hear what the Spirit has to say on this matter.

Please also read [Baptism and the Holy Spirit](#).

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### 1. Greek #907

baptizō (*bap-tid'-zo*)

Strong's Definition: “**to make whelmed (that is, fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism**” (The word “whelm” comes from the Greek word “bapto” which means “to *whelm*, that is, cover wholly with a fluid).

Thayer 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** (Emphasis added)

Translated: “baptist, baptize, wash”

### 2. Greek #908

baptisma (*bap'-tis-mah*)

Definition: “**From G907; baptism (technically or figuratively)**”

Translated: “baptism”

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1. Greek #907

baptizō (*bap-tid'-zo*)

Definition: **“to make whelmed (that is, fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism”** (The word “whelm” comes from the Greek word “bapto” which means “to *whelm*, that is, cover wholly with a fluid.)

Translated: “baptize, wash”

- Various verb tenses of the word “*baptize*” were used in both the KJV and the EMTV. As always, the quotes are from the English Majority Text Version.

Matthew 3:11(&12): *“I indeed **baptize** you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will **baptize** you with the Holy Spirit, whose winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and He will gather His wheat into the barn; but the chaff He will burn up with unquenchable fire.”*

Mark 1:4, 8: *“John came **baptizing** in the wilderness and preaching a baptism [Greek #908] of repentance for the forgiveness [Greek: ‘remission/pardon’] of sins. . . . I **baptized** you in water, but He will **baptize** you in the Holy Spirit.”*

Luke 3:16(&17): *“John answered, saying to all, ‘I indeed **baptize** you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will **baptize** you with the Holy Spirit and fire; whose winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and will gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn up with unquenchable fire.”*

John 1:26(&27), 33(&34): *“John answered them, saying, ‘I **baptize** with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. He is the One who comes after me, who has come to be before me, of whom I am not worthy that I should loose the strap of His sandal.’ . . . I did not know Him, but He who sent me to **baptize** with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending and abiding on Him, this is He who **baptizes** with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”*

1 Corinthians 1:17: *“For Christ did not send me to **baptize**, but to preach the gospel, not in eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ should be deprived of its power.”*

Matthew 3: (5&)6, 13-14, 16: *“Then Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him and they were being **baptized** by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. . . . Then Jesus arrived from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be **baptized** by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I have need to be **baptized** by You, and You are coming to me?’ . . . And having been **baptized**, Jesus came up*

immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him. ”

Matthew 20:22-23: *“But Jesus answered and said, ‘You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup which I am about to drink, or to be **baptized** with the baptism [Greek#908] that I am **baptized** with?’ They said to Him, ‘We are able.’ So He said to them, ‘You will indeed drink My cup, and be **baptized** with the baptism [Greek#908] with which I am **baptized** with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is to those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.”*

Mark 1:5, 8-9: *“And all the Judean country and the inhabitants of Jerusalem went out to him and were all **baptized** by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. . . . I **baptized** you in water, but He will **baptize** you in the Holy Spirit. It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was **baptized** by John in the Jordan.”*

Mark 10:38-39(&40): *“But Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup which I drink, and to be **baptized** with the baptism [Greek#908] with which I am **baptized**?’ They said to Him, ‘We are able.’ So Jesus said to them, ‘You will indeed drink the cup which I drink, and with the baptism [Greek#908] with which I am **baptized** you will be **baptized** with; but to sit on My right side and on My left side is not Mine to give, but to those for whom it has been prepared.”*

Mark 16:16: *“He that believes and is **baptized** shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be condemned.”*

Luke 3:7, 12(&13), 21(&22): *“Then he said to the crowds which came out to be **baptized** by him, ‘Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?’ . . . Then tax collectors also came to be **baptized**, and said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Collect nothing more than the amount which has been commanded to you.’ . . . Now it came to pass that when all the people were **baptized**, that Jesus also was **baptized**, and was praying, that the heaven was opened; and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came out of heaven, saying, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I have found delight.”*

Luke 7:29-30: *“And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been **baptized** with the baptism [Greek#908] of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God for themselves, because they had not been **baptized** by him.”*

Luke 12: (49&)50: *“I came to cast fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to be **baptized** with, and how distressed I am till it is completed!”*

John 3:22-23: *“After these things Jesus, along with His disciples, came into the land of Judea, and there He was stayed with them and He was **baptizing**. Now John also was **baptizing** in Aenon near Salem, because there was much water there. And they came and were **baptized**.”*

John 4:1-2(&3): “Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and was **baptizing** more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself was not **baptizing**, but His disciples), He left Judea and went away into Galilee.”

John 10:40: “And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first **baptizing**, and He stayed there.”

Acts 1: (4&)5: “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to withdraw from Jerusalem, but to await for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me; for John **baptized** with water, but you shall be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 2:38, 41: “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness [Greek: ‘remission/pardon’] of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. . . . Then those who gladly received his word were **baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added.”

Acts 8:12-13, 16, 36, 38: “But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were **baptized**, both men and women. Then Simon himself also believed; and having been **baptized**, he was continuing with Philip, and observing miracles and signs occurring, he was astounded. . . . For He had not yet fallen upon any of them, but they had only been **baptized** in the name of Christ Jesus. . . . Now as they were going down the road, they came upon some water. And the eunuch said, ‘Behold, here is water: what prevents me from being **baptized**?’ And he ordered the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch, and he **baptized** him.” (Verse “37” can be found in the KJV but is not present in the Greek Majority Text version which is more accurately translated due to the fact it is taken from the “majority” of manuscripts; unlike the KJV which uses only the much-touted “textus receptus.”)

Acts 9: (17&)18(&19): “And Ananias departed and entered the house; and putting his hands on him, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me, the One who appeared to you in the way which you were coming, so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he saw again; and arising, he was **baptized**, and when he received food, he was strengthened. Now Saul was with the disciples in Damascus three days.”

Acts 10: (46&)47-48: “For they heard them speaking in tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter answered, ‘Surely no one can forbid water, can he, that these should not be **baptized** who received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be **baptized** in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay for some days.”

Acts 11:16: “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed **baptized** with water, but you shall be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 16:15, 33: “And when she and her household were **baptized**, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’ So she persuaded us. . . . And taking them along in that same hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he and all his family were **baptized**.”

Acts 18:8: “And Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, were believing and were being **baptized**.”

Acts 19: (1-2&3-5(&6): “And it came about, while Apollos was in Corinth, that Paul, having gone through the interior regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit, having believed?’ So they said to him, ‘We have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’ And he said to them, ‘Into what then were you **baptized**?’ So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism [Greek #908].’ But Paul said, ‘John indeed **baptized** with a baptism [Greek #908] of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.’ And when they heard this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”

Acts 22:16: “And now, what are you going to do? Arise and be **baptized**, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Romans 6:3(&4-6): “Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized** into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism [Greek #908] into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be in the likeness of His resurrection; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, so that the body of sin may be done away with, that we should no longer serve sin.”

1 Corinthians 1:13-16(&17): “Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you **baptized** in the name of Paul? I thank God that I **baptized** none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had **baptized** in my own name. Yes, I also **baptized** the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I **baptized** any other. For Christ did not send me to **baptize**, but to preach the gospel, not in eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ should be deprived of its power.”

1 Corinthians 10: (1&2(&3-4): “Now I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were **baptized** into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they were drinking from that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:13: “For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and we were all given to drink into one Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 15:29(&30-31): “Otherwise, what will they do who are being **baptized** for the dead, if the dead are not raised at all? Why are they also **baptized** for the dead? And why are we also in danger every hour? I affirm, by my boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

Galatians 3:27: “For as many of you as were **baptized** into Christ have put on Christ.”

John 1:25-26(&27), 28, 31, 33: “And they asked him, saying, ‘Why then do you **baptize** if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?’ John answered them, saying, ‘I

baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. He is the One who comes after me, who has come to be before me, of whom I am not worthy that I should loose the strap of His sandal.’ These things happened in Bethany, beyond the Jordan, where John was **baptizing**. . . . I did not know Him; but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore I came **baptizing** with water. . . . I did not know Him, but He who sent me to **baptize** with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending and abiding on Him, this is He who **baptizes** with the Holy Spirit.’”

John 3:26: “And they came to John and said to him, ‘Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified--behold, this Man is **baptizing**, and all men are coming to Him!’”

Matthew 28:19(&20): “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

- The words “wash” and “washed” were used in both the KJV and the EMTV in these verses.

Mark 7:4: “And coming from the marketplace, unless they bathe, they do not eat. And there are many other things which they have received by tradition, like the **washing** of cups and pitchers, copper vessels and couches.”

Luke 11: (37&)38(&39): “And as He spoke, a certain Pharisee asked that He would eat with him. And having entered, He reclined to eat. And when the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that He had not first **washed** before the meal. But the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but the inside of you is full of greed and evil. Fools! Did not He who made the outside also make the inside?”

2. Greek #908

baptisma (*bap'-tis-mah*)

Definition: “**From G907; baptism (technically or figuratively)**”

Translated: “baptism”

Matthew 3:7: “But seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his **baptism**, he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?’”

Matthew 20:22-23: “But Jesus answered and said, ‘You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup which I am about to drink, or to be baptized with the **baptism** that I am baptized with?’ They said to Him, ‘We are able.’ So He said to them, ‘You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the **baptism** with which I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is to those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.’”

Matthew 21:25: “The **baptism** of John--where was it from? From heaven or from men? And they were arguing among themselves, saying, ‘If we say, From heaven, He will say to us, Why then did you not believe him?’”

Mark 1:4: “John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a **baptism** of repentance for the forgiveness [Greek: ‘remission/pardon’] of sins.”

Mark 10:38-39(&40): “But Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup which I drink, and to be baptized with the **baptism** with which I am baptized?’ They said to Him, ‘We are able.’ So Jesus said to them, ‘You will indeed drink the cup which I drink, and with the **baptism** with which I am baptized you will be baptized with; but to sit on My right side and on My left side is not Mine to give, but to those for whom it has been prepared.’”

Mark 11:30: “The **baptism** of John--was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.”

Luke 3:3: “And he went into all the surrounding region of the Jordan, preaching a **baptism** of repentance for the forgiveness [Greek: ‘remission/pardon’] of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: A voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD, make His paths straight.’”

Luke 7: (28&)29: “For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified [Greek: ‘regarded as just’] God, having been baptized with the **baptism** of John.”

Luke 12: (49&)50: “I came to cast fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a **baptism** to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is completed!”

Luke 20:4: “The **baptism** of John--was it from heaven or from men?”

Acts 1: (21&)22: “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us in every time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the **baptism** of John until the day in which He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

Acts 10:37: “you know, the word coming to be throughout all of Judea, and beginning from Galilee after the **baptism** which John proclaimed,”

Acts 18: (24&)25: “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, an eloquent man being mighty in the Scriptures, had arrived in Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things about the Lord, although he knew only the **baptism** of John.”

Ephesians 4:4-5(&6): “There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one **baptism**; one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.”

Colossians 2: (11&)12: “In whom you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by the putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of

*Christ, having been buried together with Him in **baptism**, in which also you were raised together through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”*

*1 Peter 3: (20&)21(&22): “who formerly disobeyed, when the longsuffering of God was waiting in the days of Noah, when the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water; which as an antitype, **baptism** now also saves us--(not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who having gone into heaven, is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers being subjected to Him.”*

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