

# Mikveh: Immersing in the Ritual Pool

Ritual immersion is the total submersion of the body in a pool of water. This pool and its water are precisely prescribed by Jewish law. Immersion, *tevillah*, is the common core component of every [traditional] Jewish conversion process, for male and female, adult and child. A conversion ceremony without immersion is unacceptable to the traditional religious community and simply not Jewish in character.

# Religious Functions of the Mikveh

1. Immersion is required for both men and women when converting to Judaism. There were three prerequisites for a proselyte coming into Judaism: Circumcision, baptism, and sacrifice (Maimonides, Hilkh. Iss. Biah xiii. 5).
2. Immersion is required after a woman has her monthly period (Lev. 15:28).
3. Immersion is required for pots and eating utensils manufactured by a non-Jew (Encyclopedia of Jewish Religion p-263).

# YOM KIPPUR MIKVEH

Besides these, there are other times when it is customary to be immersed in the mikveh such as the occasion before Yom Kippur as a sign of purity and repentance and before the Sabbath in order to sensitize oneself to the holiness of the day.

# Water Symbolizes Birth as an Israelite

Submerging in a pool of water for the purpose not of using the water's physical cleansing properties but expressly to symbolize a change-of-soul is a statement at once deeply spiritual and immensely compelling. No other symbolic act can so totally embrace a person as being submerged in water, which must touch and cover every lesion, every strand of hair, every birthmark. No other religious act is so freighted with meaning as this one which touches every aspect of life and proclaims a total commitment to a new idea and a new way of life as it swallows up the old and gives birth to the new.

The water of the mikveh is designed to ritually cleanse a person from deeds of the past. The convert is considered by Jewish law to be like a newborn child. By spiritually cleansing the convert, the mikveh water prepares him or her to confront Elohim, life, and people with a fresh spirit and new eyes--it washes away the past, leaving only the future. Of course, this does not deny that there were good and beautiful aspects of the past. But, in the strictest religious sense, that past was only prologue to a future life as a Jew.

If we take this graphic metaphor a step further, we can sense that the mikveh is a spiritual womb. The human fetus is surrounded by water. It does not yet live. The water breaks in a split second and the child emerges into a new world. "As soon as the convert immerses and emerges, he is a Jew in every respect" (Yevamot 47b)

**By Rabbi Maurice Lamm**

# How Immersion Was Done

- Jewish baptism has never been taken lightly, but in ancient times immersion was to be performed in the presence of witnesses (Yebam. 47b).
- The person being baptized made special preparations by cutting his nails, undressed completely and made a fresh profession of his faith before the designated "fathers of the baptism" (Kethub. 11a; Erub 15a).



Ancient sages teach that the word  
mikveh has the same letters as  
Ko(v)Meh, the Hebrew word for  
"rising" or "standing tall," therefore  
we see the idea of being baptized  
"straightway."

# The Conversion Blessings and When They Are Recited

The blessing in the mikveh is as follows:

Barukh atah Ado-nai Elo-heynu melekh  
ha'olam asher kideshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu  
al ha'tevillah.

Blessed are You, O Lord, our Elohim, King of  
the universe, who has sanctified us with His  
commandments and commanded us regarding  
the immersion.

1. Immersion was accompanied by exhortations and benedictions (Maimonides Hilkh. Milah iii.4; Hilkh. Iss, Biah Xiv .6).
2. A convert would reaffirm his acceptance of the Torah by declaring, "I will do and I will hear" which was a phrase from the oath that was originally taken by the priests not to forsake the Torah (Deuteronomy 29:9-14).

2. The Jewish baptism candidates were often immersed three times. The idea of total immersion comes from the Scripture in Leviticus 15:16 when it says, "he shall wash all his flesh in the water." One reason it was customary to immerse three times was because the word mikveh occurs three times in the Torah.

**3. According to Jewish law the immersion had to have a required witness.**

**Dr. William LaSor in the Biblical Archaeology Review says apparently the Biblical phrase "in the name of" was an indication of the required witness.**

## Revelation 1:5

**And from Yeshua the Messiah, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

## Revelation 3:14

**¶ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; {of the Laodiceans: or, in Laodicea}**

4. The immersion candidate was not touched by the baptizer in Yeshua's day. Because Leviticus 15:16 says "He shall wash all his flesh in the water," Judaism stresses that the entire body must come in contact with the water of the mikveh. To insure the immersion was valid, no clothing or individuals could touch the candidate. Any such intervention that prevented the water from reaching a part of the body was known as Chatzitzah and rendered the immersion invalid. Although the mikveh was more spiritual than physical, often the bath had two sets of steps, one entering and another leaving so as not to defile what had been purified.

5. The baptismal water (Mikveh) in rabbinic literature was referred to as the womb of the world, and as a convert came out of the water it was considered a new birth separating him from the pagan world. As the convert came out of these waters his status was changed and he was referred to as "a little child just born" or "a child of one day" (Yeb. 22a; 48b; 97b).



According to Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum rabbinic literature uses the term "born again" to refer to at least six different occurrences.

- (a) When a Gentile converts to Judaism
- (b) When an individual is crowned king.
- (c) At age 13 when a Jewish boy chooses to embrace Elohim's covenant and be numbered with the believers.
- (d) When an individual gets married.
- (e) When an individual becomes a rabbi.
- (f) When an individual becomes the head of a rabbinical school.

# **Repentance Without Baptism**

**(Yebamos 47b).**

**The Jerusalem Talmud states,  
“Nothing can stand before  
Repentance”**

According to Dr. David Flusser:

The Dead Sea Scrolls as well as the New Testament teach that water can purify the body only if the soul has first been purified through repentance and righteousness.

# GER - TOSHAV

Acts 10:

- 1 Now there was a certain man in Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,
- 2 a devout man, and one that feared Elohim with all his house, who gave much alms to the people, and prayed to Elohim always.

**Ger Toshav = GOD Fearer**

- 1. Ger Toshav = GOD Fearer**
- 2. Ger- Tzadik = Proselytes**

## Acts 10:

45 And they of the circumcision that believed were amazed, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify Elohim. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid the water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Yeshua the Messiah. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

## Acts 15:

8 And Elohim, who knoweth the heart, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as he did unto us;

9 and he made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

The day of Shavuot, all the people  
present were Israelites & Jews

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and  
be **baptized** every one of you in the name of  
Yeshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and  
ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly received his  
word were **baptized**: and the same day there  
were added unto them about three thousand  
souls.



# Yeshua as the witness

Acts 8:16

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Yeshua.)

## 1Co 1:

13 Is Messiah divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

14 ¶ I thank Elohim that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

17 ¶ For Messiah sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Messiah should be made of none effect.

# The Talmud in Yebamot 46a

Our Rabbis taught: “If a proselyte was circumcised but had not performed the prescribed ritual ablution (mikveh Immersion)”, R. Eliezer said, “Behold he is a proper proselyte: for so we find that our forefathers were circumcised had not performed ritual ablution.” “If he performed the prescribed ablution but had not been circumcised.” The sages, however, said, “Whether he had performed ritual ablution but had not been circumcised or whether he had been circumcised but had not performed the prescribed ritual ablution, he is not a proper proselyte, unless he has been circumcised and has also performed the prescribed ritual ablution.”

# WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MIKVEH

In the Torah Mikveh carries more meaning than just a ritual bath and we see this in the Hebrew word for Wash in Exodus 19:10, it implies more than just wash clothes. Is the action of cleaning away, stumping, beating down, pressing, and is always in reference to Idolatry.

# How Old was Abraham?

## Genesis 12:4

¶ So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

**How was Abraham when YHVH ask him to come into covenant?**

**Genesis 17:1**

**¶ And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.**

## Genesis 17:10

This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a *token of the covenant* betwixt me and you.

# TOKEN = Sign of Covenant

0226. אֹת 'owth,

Search for 0226 in KJV

probably from 225 (in the sense of appearing); a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, etc.:--mark, miracle, (en-)sign, token.



# **Circumcision in Biblical halachah**

**Genesis 17:12**

**And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every male throughout your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any foreigner that is not of your seed.**

## Deuteronomy 30:6

And the LORD thy God will **circumcise thine heart**, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

## Deuteronomy 10:16

**Circumcise therefore  
the foreskin of your  
heart, and be no  
more stiffnecked.**

## Jeremiah 4:4

Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,  
and take away the foreskins of your  
heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of  
Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like  
fire, and burn that none can quench it,  
because of the evil of your doings.

## Ezequiel 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

# Circumcision in Rabbinic / Pharisaic Halachah perspective

## *Hatafat Dam Brit*

*(Prick of the member and  
drawing of blood) for gentiles  
converts already circumcised*

## **Peri'ah**

**Splitting and cutting away the skin over the corona of the member.**

## **Metzitzah**

**Sucking of the wound specially of newborn babies.**

**(tractate Shabbat 133a,135a and 137a also, Yevamot 46a/b) also look at ACTS 15:1-5**

## Exodus 19:

9 ¶ And YHVH said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto YHVH.

10 And YHVH said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day YHVH will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.



H3526

כבס

kabas, kaw-bas'

Search for 03526 in KJV

a primitive root; to trample; hence, to wash  
(properly, by stamping with the feet),  
whether literal (including the fulling  
process) or figurative:--fuller, wash(-ing).

# KABAS = WASH

Is found in the Torah and is  
always in connection with  
CLEAN & UNCLEAN

Tamey and Taher



**Support or Prop / The House / The Hand**

# Hebrew words related to Kabas = Wash

**H3519**

כבוד כבוד

kabowd, kaw-bode'

Search for 03519 in KJV

rarely kabod {kaw-bode'}; from 3513;  
properly, weight, but only figuratively in a  
good sense, splendor or copiousness:--  
glorious(-ly), glory, honour(-able).

# THE HEBREW LIVER & GLORY

H3516

כבד

ka^be^d

The same as H3515; the *liver* (as the *heaviest* of the viscera): - liver.

# The connection between the liver and the Glory

## LEVITICUS 9:10

But the fat, and the kidneys, and the caul above the liver of the sin offering, he burnt upon the altar; as YHVH commanded Moses.

## Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore,  
brethren, by the mercies of  
Elohim, to present your bodies  
a living sacrifice, holy,  
acceptable to Elohim, which is  
your spiritual service.

WHAT  
IS  
CLEAN AND UNCLEAR?



## LEVITICUS 11:47

To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

H2931

טמא

ṭa<sup>ˆ</sup>me<sup>ˆ</sup>'  
*taw-may'*

From H2930; *foul* in a religious sense: -  
defiled, + infamous, polluted (-tion),  
unclean.

H2889

טהור

ṭa<sup>ˆ</sup>ho<sup>ˆ</sup>r

*taw-hore'*

From H2891; *pure* (in a physical, chemical, ceremonial or moral sense): - clean, fair, pure (-ness).

02891

טהר

taher, taw-hare'

Search for 02891 in KJV

a primitive root; properly, to be bright; i.e. (by implication) to be pure (physical sound, clear, unadulterated; Levitically, uncontaminated; morally, innocent or holy):--be (make, make self, pronounce) clean, cleanse (self), purge, purify(-ier, self).

# TAME & TAHOR

1. IDOLATRY
2. ADULTERY
3. EATING UNCLEAN ANIMALS
4. TOUCHING DEAD BODIES
5. WOMAN IN NIDDAH
6. LEPERS

# TRUE REPENTANCE

- Ps 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- Ps 51:7 ¶ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

## Jeremiah 2:20

¶ For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot. {transgress: or, serve}

21 Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

22 For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith YHVH Elohim.

# THE COMING OF MOSHIACH

INTERESTING  
CONNECTION BETWEEN  
THE COMING OF MESSIAH  
AND THE TRUE CLEANSING  
OF WATER OF THE  
BELIEVER



# GENESIS 49

10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

## MALACHI 3:

1 ¶ Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and YHVH, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith YHVH of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto YHVH an offering in righteousness.

4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto YHVH, as in the days of old, and as in former years. {former: or, ancient}

5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith YHVH of hosts. {oppress: or, defraud}

6 For I am YHVH, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

## Ezequiel 36:25

¶ Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

## Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

## 1 Co 6:11

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Adon Yeshua, and by the Spirit of our God.

628. apolouo, ap-ol-oo'-o

Search for 628 in KJV

from 575 and 3068; to wash fully,  
i.e. (figuratively) have remitted  
(reflexively):--wash (away).

# REPENT AND BE MIKVEH!

BECAUSE WE ARE THE BODY THAT IS  
UNCLEAN DUE TO THE DISPERSION AND  
TOUCHING ALL KINDS OF DEAD THINGS.  
WE WERE THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN,  
IDOLATROUS, LEPERS, WOMAN IN  
NIDDAH, AND EATING THE UNCLEAN.  
THEREFORE, WE NEEDED TO BE  
IMMERSE IN YESHUA TO BE BORN AGAIN  
AND BE A NEW CREATURE.

**Striking the Rock  
is a type of the  
first and second  
coming of  
messiah**



## Exodus 17:

6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not? {Massah: that is, Temptation} {Meribah: that is, Chiding, or, Strife}

# Numbers 20

6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

## Numbers 20:

**10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?**

**11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.**

# **PROPHETIC PICTURE OF MOSES IN THE TORAH**

**MOSES WAS 120 YEARS WHEN HE  
DIED.**

$$**120 \times 50 = 6,000**$$

## GENESIS 6:3

And YHVH said, My spirit shall not strive with man for ever, for that he also is flesh: yet shall his days be a hundred and twenty years.

# **What is the Teaching?**

- **Yeshua is the ROCK was struck and living waters came forth.**
- **Then you confess the Messiah and out of your belly shall come forth living waters**
- **You do not strike the ROCK twice and if you do, you will not enter the land of Promise.**

**WHAT WAS THE RAIN OF  
MESSIAH?**

**FULL RESTORATION  
OF THE 12 TRIBES  
OF ISRAEL**

## Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Master **YHVH** is upon Me, because **YHVH** has anointed Me to bring good news to the meek. He has sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim release to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound,



# HEBREW MEANING OF THE WORD GOSPEL

H1319

בִּשְׂרָא

ba<sup>^</sup>s'ar

to *announce* (glad news): - messenger, preach, publish, (bear, bring, carry, preach, good, tell good) tidings.

# BASAR = FLESH

## H1320

# בָּשָׂר

## basar

From H1319; flesh (from its *freshness*); by extension *body, person*; also (by euphemism) the *pudenda* of a man: - body, [fat, lean] flesh [-ed], kin, [man-] kind, + nakedness, self, skin.

## **Mateo 10:**

**5 ¶ These twelve Yeshua sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:**

**6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

## **Mateo 15:24**

**But he answered and  
said, I am not sent  
but unto the lost  
sheep of the house of  
Israel.**

## **Jer 50:6**

**My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.**

## **Jer 50:17**

**Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.**

## **Eze 34:**

**11 For thus saith the Adonai Elohim; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.**

**12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. {As...: Heb. According to the seeking}**

**13 And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.**

**14 I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.**

**15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Adonai Elohim.**

**16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.**

## 1 Peter 1

**1 Peter, an apostle of Yeshua Messiah,  
to the chosen ones who are living as  
foreigners in the Dispersion in Pontus,  
Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and  
Bithynia,**

**2 according to the foreknowledge of  
Elohim the Father, in sanctification of  
the Spirit, that you may obey Yeshua  
Messiah and be sprinkled with his  
blood: Grace to you and peace be  
multiplied.**



# Dispersion

290. diaspora diaspora,  
from 1289; dispersion, i.e.  
(specially and concretely) the  
(converted) Israelite resident in  
Gentile countries:--(which are)  
scattered (abroad).

# Lo Ammi & Lo Ruhamah

## 1 Peter 2

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of Elohim: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Hoshea 1 is about the 10 tribes of Israel

## **Ac 26:**

**2 "I think myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews,**

**3 because you are especially familiar with all customs and controversies of the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.**

**4 "My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and at Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews.**

**5 They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee.**

**6 And now I stand here on trial for hope in the promise made by God to our fathers,**

**7 to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king!**