



BAPTISM

This is by no means an exhaustive study into baptism. My question coming into this conversation is Where did baptism originate? No one is surprised by John the Baptist baptizing people because it was already a part of the Jewish life and rituals. I had heard of the ritual of Mikveh, ritual cleansing, that is still observed by some Jewish people today. In order to understand what John the Baptist, Jesus and his disciples are meaning when they talk about baptism, I want to try to understand their background and understanding of baptism. Here are a few of my notes from my study. I encourage you to do your own study, remembering to always check what you're learning with what the Bible has to say.

Hebrew & Greek words used for baptism

Hebrew

Rahas (Strong's H7364): to wash, wash off, wash away / used in Leviticus in reference to "bathing oneself in water" to purify oneself.

Mikveh (Strong's H4723): 1. Hope; 2. Collection, collected mass

Greek

Baptisma (Strong's G908): immersion, submersion

Baptizo (Strong's G907): to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge; to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe; to overwhelm

Cleansing in the Old Testament

2Kings 5:1-14

Baptism in the New Testament

John the Baptist: Luke 3, John 3:22-36

Gentile baptism: Acts 10

Resources

BlueLetterBible.org