

Following the Scriptural Trail



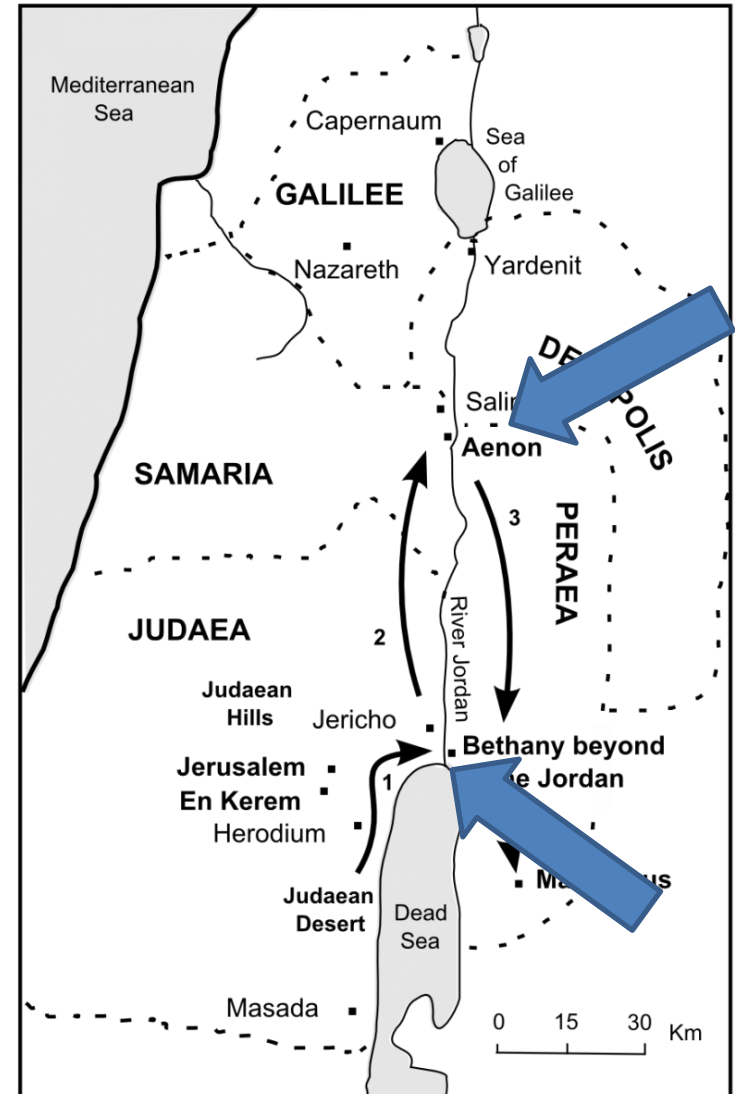


Matthew 3:5-6

People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, **they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.**

John 3:23

Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, **because there was plenty of water,** **and people were coming and being baptized.**



Mark 1:5-10

The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem **went out to him**. Confessing their sins, **they were baptized by him in the Jordan River**.⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.¹⁰ Just as **Jesus was coming up out of the water**, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

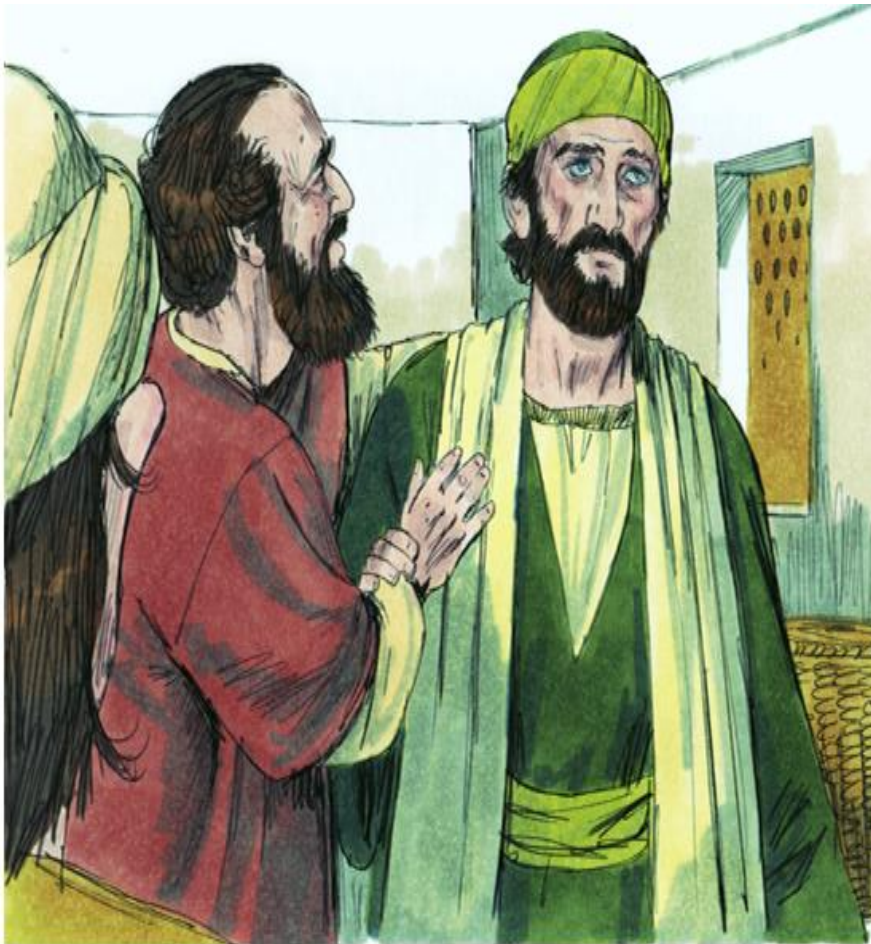
Acts 8:36-39

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of **my being baptized?**” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and **Philip baptized him.** ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.



Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? **Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away**, calling on his name.'



2 Kings 5:10-14

Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, **wash** (Greek - louo) **yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.**” ¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³ Naaman’s servants went to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed’!” ¹⁴ **So he went down and dipped (baptizo) himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him,** and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.



While the Greek word 'Baptizo' (strongs # 911)– meaning to dip or submerge completely –is used to describe baptism in the New Testament, some get confused when they read the word 'wash' in an English translation and try to say that baptism is like taking a bath (having water poured on your body) or like the Pharisees 'washing' their hands before eating.

But an examination of the text shows that the English translation **'wash' is used for three different Greek words:**

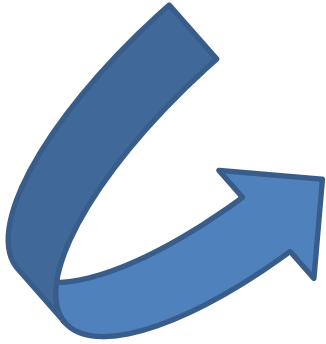
'Plyno' - which refers to washing inanimate objects, clothes, nets, dishes - not living things or people (strongs # 4150)

'Nipto' – which refers to washing a specific part of the body – hands, feet, face (strongs # 3538)

'Louo' – Which refers to bathing the whole body, not just a part (strongs # 3068)

Ephesians 5:26

to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing (louo) with water through the word,



Following the instructions given in the word (being baptized) makes the whole person clean!

Titus 3:5

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing (louo) of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Being Baptized is like cleansing the whole person - like starting anew in a rebirth by the Spirit.



Romans 6:3-4

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.



Crucified
with Him



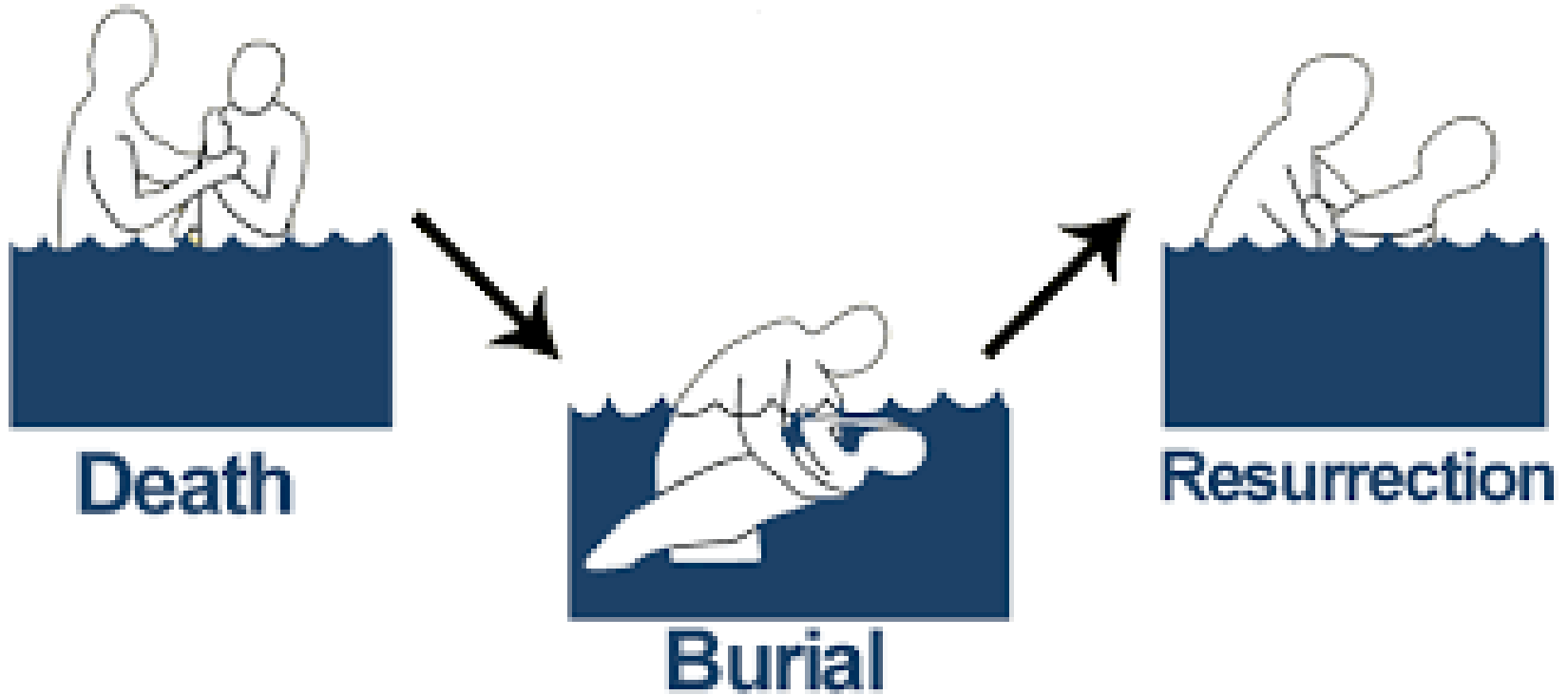
Buried
with Him



Raised
with Him

Colossians 2:12

having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.



Leviticus 14:15-16

The priest shall then take some of the log of oil, **pour** (*cheo*) it in the palm of his own left hand, ¹⁶ **dip** (*baptizo*) his right forefinger into the oil in his palm, and with his finger **sprinkle** (*rhantizo*) some of it before the LORD seven times.

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Note – there are different words for pour, dip, and sprinkle

The word ‘translated’ as **baptize** is always the word “**baptizo**”, and has only the meaning to dip, immerse, submerge. When the Bible translators came to this word, rather than take a chance on offending those who sprinkled or poured instead of immersing as the word means – they simply ‘transliterated’ the word (used the English version of the Greek word) **and “baptizo” was written as ‘baptize’**.

The idea of 'baptism' was not new to the Jews:

-Every Jewish community had at least one 'mikvah' (baptismal pool) where a person could be completely submerged in water (at least 200 gal of water)



Baptism was considered the 'gateway to purity' :

- New converts to Judaism had to be immersed
 - Women had to immerse themselves once a month to be 'cleansed' from their menstrual cycle
 - Women had to immerse before getting married
 - Men had to immerse before the wedding and before the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
- Purity was attained only when every part of the body (even every hair) was fully immersed.**

At Sinai, all Jews were commanded to immerse themselves, and change their clothes before coming face to face with God.

When Aaron and his sons were made priests, they had to be immersed in water (Jewish tradition said they used the well of Miriam)

The priests had to ‘wash’ – immerse themselves before entering the temple proper, the House of God.

The rabbis even taught that after Adam sinned in the garden, he had to immerse himself in one of the rivers that flowed from Eden. (Not in the scriptures – just taught by rabbis in order to stress the cleansing power of baptism)

So when John the Baptizer and Jesus both preached about repenting, and baptized people to prepare them for the coming kingdom, it was understood that they were being purified and made ready to meet God and His Messiah when the kingdom came - the Kingdom and Messiah that they had heard about and were anticipating all their lives. They recognized the importance of immersion in 'cleansing' them.

We are told that **baptism now saves us** (1Pet 3:21) and that it **washes away our sins** (Acts 22:16).

Baptism (immersion) **is commanded by Jesus** in the great commission (Matt 28:18-20)