

WATER BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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Mark 1:4 - John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness preaching a *baptism* of repentance, *for the forgiveness of sins*.

Luke 3:2-3 – John the son of Zechariah...went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a *baptism* of repentance *for the forgiveness of sins*.

Acts 2:38 - "Repent, and *be baptized* every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ *for the forgiveness of sins*."

1) **1 QS (The Rule of the Community) 2:25-3:11** – Anyone who refuses to enter [the society of G]od, preferring to continue in his willful heart, he shall not [be initiated into the Ya]had of His truth, inasmuch as his soul has rejected the disciplines foundational to knowledge: the laws of righteousness. He lacks the strength to repent. He is not to be reckoned with the upright....defiling stains would mar his repentance....he cannot be justified ...*Ceremonies of atonement cannot restore his innocence, neither ritual waters his purity. He cannot be sanctified by baptism in oceans and rivers, nor purified by mere ritual bathing. Unclean, unclean shall he be all the days that he rejects the laws of God, refusing to be disciplined in the Yahad of His society. For only through the Spirit pervading God's true society can he gaze upon the light of life and so be joined to His truth by His Holy Spirit, purified from all iniquity. Through an upright and humble attitude his sin may be covered, and by humbling himself before all God's laws his flesh can be made clean. Only thus can he really receive the purifying waters and be purged by the cleansing flow. Let him order his steps to walk faultless in all the ways of God...Then indeed will he be accepted by God...*

2) **1QS 4:20-21** – *By His truth God shall the purify* all human deeds, and refine some of humanity so as to extinguish every perverse spirit from the inward parts of the flesh, *cleansing* from every wicked deed *by the Holy Spirit*. Like purifying waters, He will sprinkle upon him *the Spirit of Truth, to cleanse him* of all abomination and falsehood.

3) **1QS 5:13-14** - None of the perverse men is to enter the purifying waters used by the Men of Holiness ...Indeed , *it is impossible to be purified without first repenting* of evil, inasmuch as impurity clings to all who transgress His Word.

4) **Antiquities 18:116-119** - But to some of the Jews the destruction of Herod's army seemed to be divine vengeance, and certainly a just vengeance, for his treatment of *John, surnamed the Baptist*. For Herod had put him to death, though he was a good man and had exhorted the Jews to lead righteous lives, *to practice justice towards their fellows and piety towards God*, and so doing to join in baptism. *In his view this was a necessary preliminary if baptism was to be acceptable to God. They must not employ it to gain pardon for whatever sins they committed, but as a consecration of the body implying that the soul was already thoroughly cleansed by right behavior.* When others too joined the crowds about him, because they were aroused to the highest degree by his sermons, Herod became alarmed. Eloquence that had so great an effect on mankind might lead to some form of sedition for it looked as if they would be guided by John in everything that they did. Herod decided therefore that it would be much better to strike first and be rid of him before his work led to an uprising, than to wait for an upheaval, get involved in a difficult situation and see his mistake. Though John, because of Herod's suspicions, was brought in chains to Machaerus, the stronghold that we have previously mentioned, and there put to death, yet the verdict of the Jews was that the destruction visited upon Herod's army was a vindication of John, since God saw fit to inflict such a blow on Herod.

5) **Sibylline Oracles 4:162-170** – Ah, wretched mortals, *change these things* [wicked behaviors]...*abandon* daggers and groanings, murders and *outrages*, and wash your whole bodies in perennial rivers. Stretch out your hands to heaven and *ask forgiveness*...*God will grant repentance* and will not destroy. He will stop his wrath again if you all *practice honorable piety* in your hearts.

6) **Rabbinic Literature (Mishnah Rosh HaShanah 3:8)**

7) **Matt. 3:2** – words of Mark and Luke are missing

8) **John 1:19-23** - words of Mark and Luke are missing

9) 1 Cor. 1:14, 16 – I thank God that I baptized none of you...Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel (cf. also Rom. 10: 8-17; Acts 10:44; 16:31)

10) The Greek word εἰς (*eis*)