Comes from the Greek word “Baptizo”

Stg’s #**G907** “baptizō” (βαπτίζω), from a derivative of G911 (bapto: to whelm or cover completely *with water*); to make whelmed (that is, fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism: - baptist, baptize, wash.

Mistakenly thought of as a “Christian” rite but comes from a biblical principle observed by the Jews long before Messiah’s advent.

The Greek word “baptize” is similar to the Hebrew word “tevilah”, both referring to total immersion of the body, however, “tevilah” refers to a full body immersion in a pool of “living water” like a stream or river. This body of water is called a “miqveh”.

**H4723**   מִקְוֵה miqveh  From H6960; something waited for, that is, confidence (objectively or

subjectively); **also a collection, that is, (of water) a pond**, or (of men and horses) a caravan or drove: - abiding, gathering together, hope, linen yarn, plenty [of water], pool

**H6960** קָוָה qâvâh A primitive root; to bind together (perhaps by twisting), that is, collect; (figuratively) to expect: - gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon).

Miqveh (Hebrew, מִקְוֶה), literally translated as a "collection" or "gathering", is a pool or bath of clear water in which immersion renders ritually clean a person who has become ritually unclean.

At creation we are told that the Spirit of YHWH hovered over the deep. We are told in Proverbs 8:27 that wisdom was there “When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He inscribed a **circle** on the face of the deep….” That “circle” of water is considered the womb of creation from which all physical life came, just like the amniotic sac in the womb of a pregnant woman surrounds and protects the unborn infant.

The Miqveh (baptismal pool) represents the womb that the “born again” man rises out of. The baptism is done in “Living Water” (moving water, water where life is) to symbolize the amniotic waters of the womb. Just as the Spirit of YHWH hovered over the deep at creation, so too did the Spirit of YHWH come upon and overshadow the womb of Miriam (Mary), and from her womb came forth the Word of Life.

Baptism is the fulfillment of the Red Sea crossing, wherein Yisra’el was delivered from her enemies, Pharaoh and his armies, who were never to be seen again (not have any power over them). The Red Sea crossing is the shadow picture of baptism, wherein our enemies, sin and death, have been washed away in the “sea of forgetfulness”, never to be remembered.

Baptism is the shadow picture of the work of Messiah’s sacrifice working in us. Just as Messiah died and was placed in the grave, so too we lower ourselves into the water as a symbol of taking upon ourselves His death and burial. Then, we raise up out of the water to symbolize the resurrection of Messiah, in which our inner-spirit-man is born again and raised to new life in service to the Father, and to show the hope of eternal life that comes to us at the resurrection of the dead.

**Rom 6:3**  Or do you not know that as many of us as were immersed into Messiah יהושע were immersed into His death?

**Rom 6:4**  We were therefore buried with Him through immersion into death, that as Messiah was raised from the dead by the esteem of the Father, so also we should walk in newness of life.

**Rom 6:5**  For if we have come to be grown together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also of the resurrection,

**Rom 6:6**  knowing this, that our old man was impaled with Him, so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, to serve sin no longer.

**Rom 6:7**  For he who has died has been made right from sin.

**Rom 6:8**  And if we died with Messiah, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

**Rom 6:9**  knowing that Messiah, having been raised from the dead, dies no more – death no longer rules over Him.

**Rom 6:10**  For in that He died, He died to sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives to Elohim.

**Rom 6:11**  So you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to Elohim in Messiah יהושע our Master.

This is the Justification FROM death, unto life. The New Birth of the inner-spirit-man who “delights in” and “serves” the “Torah of YHWH” (Rom 7:22, 25). Baptism is the first sign of our new birth, which is to be followed up by “obedience”.

**Rom 6:12**  Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, to obey it in its desires,

**Rom 6:13**  neither present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but **present yourselves to Elohim as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to Elohim.**

**Rom 6:14**  For sin shall not rule over you, for you are not under the law but under favour.

**Rom 6:15**  What then? **Shall we sin because we are not under Torah but under favour**? Let it not be!

**Rom 6:16**  **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves servants for obedience**, you are servants of the one whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?

1. Sin is the “transgression of the Law” (1Jn 3:4), which refers to not obeying it and here we are clearly told to not let our “mortal (physical) body” cause us to disobey the Law/Torah in the things it desires.
2. We are instructed here to present our bodies as “instruments of righteousness”, which, according to YHWH, only comes from obedience to the Torah/Law (Deut 6:24-25).
3. We are no longer “under the law” because baptism is the sign that, through belief in Messiah, we have died with Him and are now free from the penalty of death the Torah/Law required for disobeying it. Through belief, we are no longer “under” the condemnation of death the Law/Torah demands.
4. Since we are no longer “under” the condemnation of death, can we still live in disobedience to the Torah/Law? NO!!! Not according to Paul. Why?
5. We prove who we serve by the way we live, whether in disobedience to the Torah/Law (sin), which leads to death, or in obedience to the Torah/Law, which leads to righteousness. Belief makes the Inner-spirit-man righteous and Obedience to the Torah/Law is how the outer-physical-man lives righteously.

Following this pattern, Belief + Obedience (works) = set-apartness (sanctification), which ends in everlasting life.

**Rom 6:22**  But now, having been set free from sin, and having become servants of Elohim, you have your fruit resulting in set-apartness, and the end, everlasting life.

Baptism is the death of the old (inner- spirit) man, and the new birth (resurrection) of the new (inner-

spirit) man who serves YHWH in spirit (new inner-man) and truth (Torah/Law – Psl 119:142).