

**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



The River Jordan

The Meaning of Baptism

Lesson 27

An Open Letter from the Staff...

MOST professing Christians have never PROVED to themselves whether or not YEHOVAH God really exists. They lack FAITH in the realization that YEHOVAH is right now sitting at the CONTROLS of this entire universe.

But for many of you students, this Correspondence Course, has helped provide the TOOLS, the PROD and the INSPIRATION to do this. You have now proved that THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS a REAL God. And you have come to understand that YEHOVAH God is working out a supreme PURPOSE here below -- dealing DIRECTLY with nations and with individuals.

But many of you have gone about as far as you can go in receiving NEW spiritual understanding, WITHOUT BEING BAPTIZED! The true God will continue to give you more light only as long as YOU WALK IN the light you have already received. You have YOUR PART TO do in this process! And you definitely need YEHOVAH's holy spirit to help you.

In this age above all others, you need to check up and be SURE that you have truly been CONVERTED, that you have been PROPERLY BAPTIZED, and that you have YEHOVAH God's SPIRIT to guide, bless and protect you. You need to be sure about these most important of all matters!

You should be baptized -- immersed in water -- as an outward sign of your willingness to completely bury the old self in full surrender to the Messiah and YEHOVAH God. "Sprinkling" or "pouring" do not picture this burial. The Messiah taught WATER BAPTISM and so did all the apostles in the inspired New Testament Church.

This lesson will make the MEANING of baptism crystal clear and point you in the right direction for a spirit-filled life of obedience to YEHOVAH God and His Messiah.



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BIBLE
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE
LESSON 27**

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About Our Cover...

Our cover shows a scenic spot along the banks of the River Jordan in which many repentant believers were baptized by John "the Baptist." It was also in this same river that John baptized Yeshua the Messiah. This lesson reveals the plain truth about water baptism. It shows exactly what Yeshua, his apostles, and his early New Testament Church taught about this grossly misunderstood step.

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The Meaning of Baptism

LESSON 27

The religious ideas and teachings of men are varied and confused. Even the great denominations have repeatedly changed their basic doctrines from time to time. But the teachings of the Bible are CONSISTENT and UNCHANGING.

“Thy word is truth,” Yeshua said (**John 17:17**). And again he said, “The scripture cannot be broken” (**John 10:35**). YEHOVAH GOD DOES NOT CONTRADICT HIMSELF IN HIS INSPIRED WORD! We should always bear this in mind when studying the Bible.

Yeshua continued to teach the same truths all through his ministry, and the apostles preached the same Gospel. The true servants of YEHOVAH God in all ages have written and taught the same basic WAY OF OBEDIENCE to YEHOVAH God.

A young man once asked the Messiah, “Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” Yeshua answered, “Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS” (**Matthew 19:16-17**).

This is the WAY Yeshua taught would lead to eternal life. He said nothing about a meaningless ceremony of “joining” a church and “accepting” him as Savior. He taught that if he is to be your Lord you have to OBEY him.

Did Yeshua know what he was talking about?

Many organizations of men seem to think that he didn’t, for they have substituted a dead faith and belief in his PERSON, and deny the WAY of salvation which he taught!

The apostles of the Messiah continued preaching the SAME message Yeshua did. Before his ascension to heaven, he commanded them to go forth and instruct all nations,

“Teaching them to observe ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU” (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

The Apostle Paul taught the same way of life that Yeshua did, and he recognized that way as being what “Christianity” is! He speaks of having formerly persecuted the Christians: “And I persecuted THIS WAY unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women” (**Acts 22:4**).

In Paul’s day, Christianity was recognized as a way of life. Of exactly what does this way of life consist?

The Apostle Peter answers: “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth” (**I Peter 2:21-22**). Yeshua gave up his own will and suffered for us. He did no sin. He set us an EXAMPLE that we should follow his steps. This, Peter says, is our “calling.”

In **Galatians 2:20**, Paul explains this even further: “I am crucified with Christ,” he writes, “nevertheless I live; yet not I, but CHRIST LIVETH IN ME: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Could anything be plainer?

Paul wrote that he had crucified his own will, and that THE MESSIAH was living in him -- directing his life. He was not only living by faith IN, but by the very faith OF, the Son of YEHOVAH God!

But no human being can naturally and normally yield himself to obey YEHOVAH God in his own strength. Paul explains why this is impossible: “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is NOT SUBJECT to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not

in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, HE IS NONE OF HIS" (**Romans 8:7-8**).

We must have the Messiah's spirit (which is YEHOVAH's spirit) within us -- guiding our thoughts and actions -- to be recognized as his. But how may we receive YEHOVAH's spirit?

When YEHOVAH's Church first began on the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D., Peter gave the answer to this question. "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yeshua the Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the holy spirit" (**Acts 2:38**).

We have to realize our own ways are wrong -- that they have brought on the war, the suffering, and all the human woe and misery we see in this world -- and we must be willing to repent of and completely TURN AWAY from our former ideas and way of life, letting YEHOVAH God actually rule and control our daily lives. Then we should BE BAPTIZED, which Paul explains in **Romans 6:1-6** is the outward sign of our willingness to completely BURY our old self in a watery grave. Then we are to come up and walk in NEWNESS OF LIFE -- following Yeshua's example.

When we do this, we are promised the "gift" of YEHOVAH's holy spirit to guide us in following and obeying Yeshua the Messiah -- our elder brother and Lord and Master whom we are to serve and obey in actual fact!

YEHOVAH God's spirit is a part of his very CHARACTER placed within us to enable us to live as we are commanded in the Bible. Paul explains that "the LOVE OF GOD is shed abroad in our hearts by the holy spirit which is given unto us" (**Romans 5:5**).

There are many human ideas about how we should express this love every Christian must have. Most professing Christians seem to think that it is a sentimental emotion about the person of the Messiah, or a sanctimonious attitude with lots of religious-sounding talk in front of our

fellowmen.

But, in His inspired Word, YEHOVAH God tells us what this divine love really is: "For this is the love of God, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (**I John 5:3**).

Yes, YEHOVAH's love will always lead us to obey Him, to follow the Messiah's literal example, and thus to be a real Christian.

Perhaps the best definition of a "Christian" contained in any one verse of the Bible is found in **I John 2:6**. The Weymouth Translation makes the intended meaning clearer than the older King James wording. It reads: "He who says that he abides in him is bound to live as He lived."

How many of today's professing "Christians" feel bound to live exactly as Yeshua the Messiah did -- to literally KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS as he did, to refrain from killing, stealing, lying and to KEEP HOLY the same days that Yeshua did -- and, through the holy spirit, to literally let him live his life all over in them?

The complete, UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER of one's self to YEHOVAH God and to the Messiah as Savior and Master is the key to real conversion.

If you would really be a Christian -- examine yourself. Have you come to the place where you really BELIEVE in the Creator God and in the Bible as His Word -- His inspired revelation to man? Are you willing to totally SURRENDER your will to OBEY His Word -- to STUDY it HONESTLY, ZEALOUSLY, and to LIVE BY IT?

Are you ready to actually GIVE your life to the Messiah -- yielding COMPLETELY, WILLINGLY, so that he may LIVE his life in you through the holy spirit? Are you willing to let YEHOVAH God FASHION AND MOLD YOU after His own divine character -- that He may give you eternal life in the resurrection and a position of rulership over cities and nations under Himself and Yeshua the Messiah in the world tomorrow?

Are you willing to quit arguing and reasoning with your Maker and say, "Yes, LORD, THY WILL BE DONE"?

To really be "Christians," we need to study the Bible, noticing especially the example and teaching of the Messiah. We need to REPENT of our ways and surrender our lives to YEHOVAH God in BAPTISM that we may receive His Spirit to guide us in following His way as revealed in His Word.

The UNDERSTANDING of YEHOVAH's Truth is -- in a sense -- DANGEROUS KNOWLEDGE! For this knowledge carries with it great responsibility. May YEHOVAH God grant you the HONESTY and COURAGE to ACT on what you know!

WHY WATER BAPTISM?

WHY be baptized? What is baptism? Is it a religious "rite" -- an INITIATION into some church? Should a person be sprinkled, poured upon, or immersed? What is a valid baptism in YEHOVAH God's sight?

Utter Confusion

"Repent!" screamed a panting, perspiring evangelist to a crowd of avid followers in Brooklyn, New York.

It was a hot, steamy, sweltering day. The heat assailed them in waves from the blistering pavement under their feet. Finally, a plea for REPENTANCE was made. Dozens of people stepped forward, tears streaming down their faces.

Having secured permission from the city fire department, the evangelist hooked a hose to a fire hydrant and SPRAYED the whole crowd with water -- "baptizing" them!

Was this baptism valid?

In another ceremony down the street, inside a church building, a pastor graciously SPRINKLED a few drops of

water over the head of an infant. Meanwhile, in another church across town, a minister and two candidates for baptism stepped down into a tank of water. The minister then proceeded to completely IMMERSE them under the water.

Were either of these methods of "baptism" VALID in YEHOVAH's sight?

Why such CONFUSION about baptism in the churches today? What IS water baptism all about? And is it really necessary for salvation?

Millions Deceived!

Millions today are worshipping Yeshua the Messiah IN VAIN! Do you believe this astounding statement? Yeshua said: "IN VAIN do they WORSHIP me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7).

Yes, MILLIONS have been deceived and misled into thinking they are "saved" when they're not! Most professing Christians have been taught that "Christ completed the plan of salvation on the cross" -- that all they must do is just accept and believe on the NAME of Yeshua the Messiah and they will be saved.

What a tremendous lack of Bible understanding!

Just "accepting" the Messiah and "be-

Ukrainian Orthodox priest "baptizing" a baby. Is "pouring" a valid form of baptism? Read on in this lesson to learn the truth from your Bible.



lieving on him” is NOT ENOUGH -- not according to your own Bible! Which will you believe -- the doctrines and traditions of MEN? Or the very word of the Messiah himself?

The Bible clearly teaches that YEHOVAH God COMMANDS water baptism! Let’s begin to understand how vitally important water baptism really is in YEHOVAH’s Plan of salvation for mankind.

Baptism a Required Step

Notice the very beginning of the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah (**Mark 1:14-15**). Yeshua proclaimed: “REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the Gospel.” Here Yeshua commanded two prior conditions to becoming a Christian -- repentance and faith.

Repentance is toward YEHOVAH God. We know sin is the transgression of YEHOVAH’s Spiritual Law (**I John 3:4**). Repentance means to QUIT SINNING and begin living according to YEHOVAH God’s Commandments. Faith is toward the Messiah. It is our FIRM BELIEF in the sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah for our past sins. It is our FIRM BELIEF in his resurrection from the dead. It is our BELIEF in him as our personal Savior and coming High Priest and king.

Yeshua also said “believe the GOSPEL.” The Gospel is the Good News of the coming Kingdom of YEHOVAH God, which is the GOVERNMENT of YEHOVAH God. And government involves obedience to LAWS, in this case YEHOVAH’s Laws which express the will of YEHOVAH God. It is to be government by the WILL OF YEHOVAH GOD, no longer by human self-will, for YEHOVAH God will then be King of all the earth!

After the Messiah had completed his ministry, had paid the penalty for the sins of all mankind, had risen from the dead and ascended to heaven, the holy spirit was sent on the Day of Pentecost -- just as the Messiah had promised.

Thousands were in Jerusalem for this festival. When the spirit of YEHOVAH God

came upon -- and INTO -- the disciples that morning, the people came in awe and wonder to see what had occurred. Then Peter preached to the multitude gathered there. Thousands were convicted in their hearts. They realized their lost condition. They realized Yeshua was indeed the Messiah -- their SAVIOR!

“What shall we do?” they cried out to Peter and the disciples.

Peter was now INSPIRED by the holy spirit. The answer came straight and clear.

“REPENT,” shouted Peter, “and be BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall RECEIVE the gift of the holy spirit” (**Acts 2:38**).

This account recorded by Luke emphasized repentance as a condition to becoming a Christian. But they also BELIEVED, since one cannot be baptized EXCEPT he believe in the Messiah (**Acts 8:37**). Baptism is a commanded ordinance symbolizing FAITH in the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah.

Once these conditions are complied with, YEHOVAH God stands bound by His immutable PROMISE to put within the repentant believer HIS SPIRIT of love, faith, understanding, gentleness and goodness. It is the impregnation and begetting of ETERNAL life! And the holy spirit in one is the POWER that enables one to OVERCOME his human nature and OBEY YEHOVAH God! “For the PROMISE is unto you, and to your children... even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (**Acts 2:39**).

Water baptism, then, is a REQUIRED step in YEHOVAH’s Plan of salvation!

In this extremely important and revealing lesson, we will come to fully understand exactly what YEHOVAH God commands concerning water baptism. We’ll learn, from the Bible, what baptism really MEANS to all who want to become true Christians and inheritors of the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God.

Are you ready? Do you have your Bible in front of you so you can read each scripture reference given in this lesson? Don't forget to ask YEHOUAH God to help you grasp and THOROUGHLY COMPREHEND the vital truth you are about to study. Now let's begin.

LESSON 27

The Flood a Type of Baptism

The Old Testament contains significant types or foreshadows of New Testament water baptism which are important to our understanding of the Messiah's and the apostles' teachings concerning baptism. Let's begin with Noah and the Flood.

1. When men began to multiply upon the face of the earth, did they obey YEHOUAH God? Or did they sin grievously against YEHOUAH? **Genesis 6:5, 11-12.**

2. What did YEHOUAH God say He would do to the land's population as a punishment for sin? **Genesis 6:7.** By what means of destruction? **Verse 17.**

COMMENT: YEHOUAH says "the wages of sin is death" (**Romans 6:23**). The evil world of Noah's day was to receive just payment for sin.

3. But who, in that land of rampant sin, found grace in YEHOUAH's sight? **Genesis 6:8.** Why did YEHOUAH favor Noah? Did he walk with YEHOUAH in obedience to His Laws? **Verse 9.** Also **II Peter 2:5** compared with **Psalms 119:172.**

COMMENT: Noah preached OBEDIENCE to YEHOUAH God's Commandments! But the people of the land would not listen.

4. YEHOUAH told Noah to build an enormous ship so he and his family could escape the great flood He would bring on the wicked and lawless land (**Genesis 6:14-16**). How did Noah demonstrate his belief -- his FAITH -- in YEHOUAH's promise of salvation from the



Onlookers jeered obedient Noah just before he was sealed within the ark. They didn't laugh for long.

flood -- the PENALTY of the land's sins? **Genesis 6:22** and **Hebrews 11:7.**

COMMENT: Many long, arduous and trying years were required to complete the ark. (Compare **Genesis 5:32** with **Genesis 7:11.**) Just imagine all of the RIDICULE Noah must have endured from the people around him. They thought he was a fool! But Noah BELIEVED YEHOUAH God. He TRUSTED and OBEYED YEHOUAH God. He had SAVING FAITH!

5. Does Noah's escape from the tremendous flood -- a WATERY GRAVE for the sinners of the land -- typify our deliverance from sin's penalty through the symbolic meaning of water baptism? **I Peter 3:20-21.**

COMMENT: YEHOUAH provided a WAY for Noah to ESCAPE the old world of sin and the penalty it had incurred for disobedience to YEHOUAH's Laws. Noah BELIEVED YEHOUAH God when He warned him of the flood He would send upon the land. And Noah OBEYED YEHOUAH God by building the ark. He DEMONSTRATED his faith by his obedience! This is the same kind of ACTIVE faith YEHOUAH expects from us today -- if we want to be saved from the penalty of our sins!

Noah was brought up OUT OF the water

that destroyed the sinful land, and was saved physically. Today, we can be saved SPIRITUALLY from the penalty of sin -- if we believe the Messiah died for our sins and if we symbolically BURY OUR sins in baptism, rising up out of the water to begin living a new SPIRIT-FILLED life of obedience to YEHOVAH God. But more about this later.

Israel "Baptized" in the Sea

Let's notice another interesting Old Testament analogy pointing to New Testament baptism. While the children of Israel were in Egypt, they were Pharaoh's slaves -- HELPLESS AND POWERLESS under his taskmasters -- just as a sinner is the slave of the devil and sin (**Romans 6:16**).

Egypt is a type of SIN. Pharaoh and his army can be compared to Satan and his demons who strive to bring us into captivity to sin. YEHOVAH God commanded Israel to COME OUT of Egypt -- sin. Israel obeyed.

The Israelites began their exodus out of Egypt under Moses after they applied the blood of the Passover lamb to their doorposts (see **Exodus 12:1-13**). Their departure from Egypt is a type of our departure from sin! The blood of the lamb which protected

them from death typifies the blood of the Messiah -- OUR "Passover lamb" (**I Corinthians 5:7**) -- whose blood was shed for the remission of our sins.

1. Were the Israelites happy and joyful upon leaving Egypt behind them? **Numbers 33:3**.

COMMENT:

"With a high hand" means JOYFULLY. The children of Israel left in GREAT EXALTATION and elation over their deliverance from the bondage (sin) of Egypt.

2. While the Israelites were rejoicing over their newfound freedom, did Pharaoh and his army begin to pursue them? **Exodus 14:8-9**.

COMMENT:

Today, millions of professing Christians unwittingly find themselves in the same position the Israelites were in. Since they have accepted the Messiah and his blood for the remission of their sins, they THINK they are now FOREVER free from sin, the devil and their own human nature, just as the Israelites thought they were free from the bondage of Egypt --

until Pharaoh began to pursue them!

3. Did YEHOVAH God commission Moses to deliver the children of Israel from the clutches of Egyptian bondage? **Exodus 3:10** and



SAVED FROM DEATH. Only those in the ark were saved from YEHOVAH's punishment for sin -- the rest of the people perished in the Flood. A painting by Adam Colonia (1634-1685).



ISRAEL DELIVERED. The Israelites walked across the dry seabed, while on either side the waters of the Red Sea towered hundreds of feet above their heads!

Acts 7:35.

4. Is Moses therefore referred to as a TYPE of the Messiah? **Acts 7:37.** The word "prophet" refers to the Messiah. Note the words, "Like unto me." Also see **Acts 3:20-22.** What did YEHOVAH God commission Yeshua the Messiah to deliver us from? **Romans 3:24-25.**

COMMENT: Moses, commissioned by YEHOVAH God to deliver Israel from PHYSICAL bondage, was a TYPE pointing to the Messiah -- whom YEHOVAH also commissioned to deliver repentant believers from SPIRITUAL bondage!

5. What did Moses say when the Israelites became fearful of Pharaoh's oncoming army? **Exodus 14:13-14.** Did YEHOVAH tell them to bog down, give up, and QUIT, giving up all hope of escaping the Egyptians? Or to go forward in obedience, TRUSTING Him and His POWER to deliver them? **Verses 15-16.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH likewise tells us TO GO FORWARD in OBEDIENCE TO HIM, trusting Him and His Power -- the holy spirit -- to deliver us! But the churches of this world believe and practice the very opposite. They teach there is NOTHING more for us to do other than to ACCEPT the Messiah and BELIEVE in his shed blood for the remission of our sins.

6. What external help did the Israelites receive from YEHOVAH God to protect them from Pharaoh and his army? **Exodus 14:19-20.**

COMMENT: The angel of the Lord in the cloud had gone before the Israelites in order to show them the way. Now he went behind them, between them and their enemies, to PROTECT them.

True Christians need external help today, too -- and very desperately! What we need is YEHOVAH's holy spirit to help us keep ourselves from falling into the clutches of future sins, once our past sins have been forgiven and

covered by the Messiah's blood!

7. When YEHOVAH divided the Red Sea so the children of Israel could pass through (**Exodus 14:21-22**), were they FEARFUL? **Psalms 78:53.** Did they TRUST YEHOVAH God to keep the walls of water from crashing down upon them? **Hebrews 11:29.**

8. What happened to the Egyptians who pursued the Israelites? **Exodus 14:26-28.**

COMMENT: Here we see Pharaoh and his army, who represented the SIN of Egypt in which Israel had lived, buried in a watery grave. How wonderfully this typifies the symbolism of Christian baptism! "Knowing this, that our old man [our old SINFUL carnal self] is crucified [KILLED and buried by baptism] with him [the Messiah], that the body of sin might be



SIN LEFT BEHIND. Pharaoh's army being destroyed and buried by the waters of the Red Sea.

DESTROYED, that hence forth we should NOT SERVE SIN" (**Romans 6:6**).

9. Therefore, isn't Israel's deliverance from Egypt (a type of sin) through the WATERS of the Sea clearly a type of Christian baptism today? **I Corinthians 10:1-2.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God often required many of the Old Testament prophets, including Moses, to ACT out the things that He would bring to pass in the future (see **Ezekiel**

4:1-17; 5:1-4). Likewise, YEHOVAH requires those who now sincerely want to have their past sins blotted out and covered by the Messiah's blood, to perform the PHYSICAL act of baptism! It impresses the MEANING of baptism upon them, and is an OUTWARD SIGN showing that they have truly repented and believed in the Messiah's sacrifice for their sins.

And so the passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea, and the drowning of Pharaoh and his army in a watery "grave" (symbolizing the destruction of our "old man," or past life of SIN) clearly TYPIFY New Testament WATER BAPTISM!

John's Baptism

Just before the appearance of the Messiah, and the subsequent arrival of the holy spirit, YEHOVAH God commissioned John the Baptist to administer a SPECIAL TYPE of baptism -- the "baptism of REPENTANCE." Let's understand why.

1. Was John the Baptist a prophet of YEHOVAH God? **Luke 1:63, 76.** Was he sent to proclaim and PREPARE the way for Yeshua the Messiah? **Verse 76** and **Matthew 3: 1-3.**

2. Was John also sent to BAPTIZE with water? **John 1:33.**

COMMENT: Remember that baptism symbolizes BURIAL of the old carnal, sinful self. It is the outward expression of INWARD repentance.

3. Who sent John and gave him authority to baptize? **Luke 3:2-3** and **Matthew 21:25-26.**

COMMENT: The chief priests and elders knew John was a prophet sent by YEHOVAH God, but would not acknowledge the fact. If they had, they would also have been acknowledging that the Messiah's authority came from YEHOVAH God -- which they REFUSED to do!

4. Just exactly what was the MESSAGE John preached? **Mark 1:4-5** and **Matthew 3:11.**

COMMENT: John's message was the "baptism of REPENTANCE." It was EXACT-

LY what it implied. Those John baptized had truly REPENTED of their past sins and were actually forgiven by YEHOVAH God. But they did not yet receive the holy spirit -- the power to overcome sin in their nature, and to master themselves -- for the holy spirit was not made available until AFTER the Messiah's resurrection (**John 7:38:39**).

The account in **Luke 1:77** clearly states that John the Baptist was sent "To give knowledge of salvation unto His people BY THE REMISSION OF THEIR SINS." John was simply preaching REPENTANCE FROM SIN! His message was preparing a people to receive and obey THE MESSIAH when he started his ministry, thus PREPARING the way for his ministry.

Baptism a New Testament Command!

Now that this foundation of understanding has been laid, let's learn exactly what Yeshua the Messiah COMMANDS US TODAY concerning water baptism.

1. Did Yeshua set an example for us in all things to show us that we should walk -- live -- as he did? **I Peter 2:21** and **I John 2:6.** Was he baptized? **Matthew 3:13-16.**

COMMENT: Even though Yeshua had committed no sins to repent of, he was baptized, SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR US TO FOLLOW! This was the ONLY purpose for his baptism.

2. After his resurrection, Yeshua gave his twelve apostles the final gospel commission for this age. In it, did he COMMAND his disciples to BAPTIZE repentant believers? **Matthew 28:19-20** and **Mark 16:16.** What is the ultimate fate of those who won't believe? **Verse 16.**

COMMENT: The Messiah plainly COMMANDED baptism!

3. What was Peter's COMMAND to the repentant believers on the Day of Pentecost? **Acts 2:38.**

4. Do we find that repentant believers were always baptized? **Acts 2:41; 8:5, 12.**

The Meaning of Baptism

5. Ten years after the Apostle Peter preached his first inspired sermon to the Judeans in Jerusalem, YEHOVAH God sent him to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. He was sent to the house of Cornelius, a very devout Italian. But Cornelius did not have saving knowledge. Peter had to preach the FORGIVENESS OF SINS through the Messiah to Cornelius and his family (**Acts 10:22, 30-33, 43**).

Did they receive YEHOVAH's spirit BEFORE being baptized? **Verses 44-45**. Was their receiving of the holy spirit before baptism a SPECIAL SIGN from YEHOVAH to the apostles? **Acts 11:17-18**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God made an exception in this instance. Repentant believers ordinarily have to be baptized FIRST, before they can receive the holy spirit (**Acts 2:38**). But since Cornelius and his family were the FIRST GENTILES to be called of YEHOVAH God and converted, YEHOVAH gave them the holy spirit before baptism as a SPECIAL SIGN to prove to Peter and the other apostles that He had also opened the way of salvation to the GENTILES!

6. Did Peter immediately command that Cornelius and his family be baptized? **Acts 10:47-48**.

COMMENT: The true Gospel or GOOD NEWS that the Messiah commanded his Church to preach is not just a message about the PERSON of the Messiah -- it is the very message HE was commissioned to preach -- the good news of the coming Kingdom or Government of YEHOVAH God!

One must hear and BELIEVE the true Gospel before being baptized (**Mark 1:14-15**). The Messiah's Gospel includes not only believing on him as our personal Savior, but also as our coming HIGH PRIEST and king in the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God. Those who believe the true Gospel, accept the Messiah as their Savior, repent of their sins, and are BAPTIZED are the ones who will be SAVED -- born again to inherit the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God (**Mark 16:15-16**).

Obviously baptism is VERY IMPORTANT to YEHOVAH God -- else He would not have made it an absolute COMMAND!

Only ONE True "Baptism"

The world today is in great confusion regarding baptism. One panting, perspiring preacher "baptized" by dousing a group with a fire hose! Others "baptize" by sprinkling, and some by pouring water over the heads of new believers.

It is interesting to note that the word "sprinkle" occurs only seven times in the New Testament, and always in connection with the blood of the Messiah -- NEVER referring to baptism!

The word "pouring" is mentioned several times in the New Testament -- but NOT ONCE as a form of baptism!

Notice what the *Catholic Encyclopedia* admits regarding baptism: "The most ancient form usually employed was unquestionably immersion...in the Latin Church immersion seems to have prevailed until the twelfth century. After that time, it is found in some places as late as the 16th century. Infusion and aspersion [pouring and sprinkling] were growing common in the 14th century and gradually prevailed in the Western Church" (article "Baptism").

It is quite plain that sprinkling and pouring were late innovations of mere MEN!

The first recorded case of a professing Christian being sprinkled was that of Novatian, who lived at Rome in the middle of the third century after the Messiah. Of him even Eusebius, a Catholic historian in the days of Emperor Constantine, wrote: "...And being supposed at the point of death [Novatian] was baptized by sprinkling, in the bed on which he lay; if, indeed it be proper to say that one like him did receive baptism" (*Ecclesiastical History*, Bk. VI, Chap. 43).

Notice that sprinkling even then was NOT considered a valid form of baptism! The

Catholic Church had ruled that "It was unlawful that one who had been sprinkled...should enter into any order of the clergy..." (*ibid*).

The word "baptize" is not an English word. It is a Greek word. The New Testament was written in the Greek language. In translating the Bible into English, the translators left this word untranslated. Literally, in the Greek, the word is "baptizo". The definition is "immerse." It means to "plunge into" or "put into." It DOES NOT MEAN "to sprinkle" or "to pour." The Greek word for "sprinkle" is "rantidzo" and "to pour" is "cheo" in Greek. The holy spirit inspired only the use of the word "baptizo", meaning to immerse, when referring to BAPTISM!

Therefore, sprinkling or pouring are NOT forms of BAPTISM! IMMERSION -- being placed completely down under water -- IS! Baptism symbolizes the BURIAL of the old carnal self. Sprinkling or pouring -- or dousing with a fire hose -- are NOT symbolic of a BURIAL BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION!

Let's notice what the Bible itself teaches concerning the proper mode or method of baptism.

1. Why was John baptizing IN Aenon near Jerusalem? **John 3:23**.

COMMENT: John would have needed only a cup full of water to sprinkle, or a pitcher full to pour -- but BAPTIZING requires "MUCH water."

2. How does the baptism of the Messiah prove that he was IMMERSED? **Matthew 3:16**.

COMMENT: Yeshua had to be put DOWN INTO the water, for he "went up straightway out of the water...." It is ridiculous to think he could have come "up...out" of a sprinkle or a pour!

3. When Philip baptized the eunuch, did they both go INTO the water? **Acts 8:38**.

COMMENT: There was no purpose whatever for Philip to actually go INTO the water, except for the reason there was no other way he could PLUNGE the eunuch INTO the

river. Had sprinkling or pouring been the proper method of baptism, Philip would have only needed to bend over and scoop up the water in his hands.

4. How many methods of "baptism" are acceptable to YEHOUAH God? **Ephesians 4:4-6**.

COMMENT: The Apostle Paul was inspired to write and explain that there is but "ONE BAPTISM" -- not several different modes which may be practiced. Just ONE! YEHOUAH God did not leave it up to men to invent or devise their own modes of baptism, attaching the name of the Messiah to them. According to the divinely inspired Word of YEHOUAH God, there is ONLY ONE proper method or mode of baptism! Any other method devised by man is absolutely CONTRARY to YEHOUAH's Word, and is NOT VALID!

The Bible, the Greek language itself, and the admissions of Catholic historians, all PROVE that complete immersion -- being



"Christening" -- This baby is oblivious to the ceremony taking place. But was this "baptism" valid in YEHOUAH's sight?

placed COMPLETELY UNDER WATER -- was the only method of baptism practiced by the

original INSPIRED Ecclesia of YEHOVAH God! Therefore, sprinkling and pouring are COUNTERFEIT modes of baptism!

The Meaning of Baptism

What is the REAL MEANING of baptism -- its true significance? What is its real purpose? Exactly why does YEHOVAH God command baptism?

Let's understand the answer from your Bible.

1. Did Yeshua the Messiah CONDEMN sin in the flesh by living a SINLESS life? **Romans 8:3-4** and **Hebrews 4:15**. Did he suffer death to pay the penalty OUR SINS have incurred? **I Corinthians 15:3**. Was he buried and then resurrected from the dead? **Verse 4** and **Romans 8:11**.

COMMENT: The Messiah DIED for our sins, and was BURIED. After three days he was "quickenened" -- that is, he was "made alive," or "given life" by YEHOVAH God who was present in Jerusalem, in the Temple, at the time in His Shekinah Glory form.

The Messiah set us an example by the sinless life which he lived. He "condemned" sin by living sinlessly through the power of the holy spirit, thus showing us that we need not sin. His death paid the penalty of sin that we have incurred. And his resurrection shows he triumphed over sin and death.

2. Is baptism SYMBOLIC of one's death, burial and resurrection from a "grave"? **Colossians 2:12-13** and **Romans 6:2-6**. Also read the rest of the verses up to and including **verse 13**.

COMMENT: Just as the Messiah was buried, our BAPTISM -- being plunged into a watery "grave" -- is symbolic of the BURIAL of our old sinful life. And as the Messiah was resurrected in newness of life, our coming up OUT of the water immediately after baptism is symbolic of rising up to live a NEW LIFE free from the shackles of past sins and the death penalty!

Baptism, then, is DUAL. It pictures the DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION of the Messiah. It also pictures the death and burial of the sinner and his rising up to begin living a Christian life.

Going down into the water pictures the death of the Messiah and of our old self. Likewise, being buried in the water pictures the burial of the Messiah, and of our old sinful life. And coming up out of the water pictures the Messiah's resurrection, and our coming up to walk henceforth "in newness of life" -- in OBEDIENCE TO YEHOVAH GOD'S LAWS! We now reckon ourselves as DEAD, so far as sin is concerned, but ALIVE through YEHOVAH God and His Son Yeshua the Messiah! (**Romans 6:11-12**.)

After baptism, the Messiah begins DWELLING WITHIN us by the holy spirit which we receive from YEHOVAH God (**Romans 8:10**). That spirit enables us, from that time forward, to RESIST the pull of sin in our mortal flesh and to obey YEHOVAH's spiritual laws (**verse 13**).

The Apostle Paul said: "I am CRUCIFIED with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live IN THE FLESH I live by the FAITH of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (**Galatians 2:20**).

Water baptism is simply an ordinance of the Messiah by which we SYMBOLICALLY express our faith in him as our personal savior -- our belief and acceptance of his death, burial and resurrection. Baptism also SYMBOLICALLY expresses our sincere and TOTAL REPENTANCE of our old sinful life, our burial of that sinful life, and our rising up to a NEW life of spiritual obedience to YEHOVAH God.

BAPTISM, then, symbolizes the death and burial of the old self which has been contrary to YEHOVAH God and His laws. It symbolizes our faith in, and acceptance of, the literal death of Yeshua the Messiah for our sins. It symbolizes, also, our acceptance of and faith in his resurrection, which our coming up out of the

watery “grave” pictures (**Romans 6:5**).

Baptism clearly signifies that our selfish, vain and sinful self HAS TO DIE. It shows our realization of our own sins, our vanities, our wretchedness. It is an OUTWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of our realization that the old self must die in order that we might rise again to live -- this time really live -- by YEHOVAH’s laws and commandments (**verse 6**).

Sin is the transgression of YEHOVAH God’s Law (**I John 3:4**). Baptism shows our willingness to BURY sin, and the old sinful man, and to walk in NEWNESS of life, obedient to YEHOVAH God and His laws through the POWER of YEHOVAH’s spirit which He promises to give us after baptism!

Baptism, in the final analysis, SHOWS OUR TOTAL SURRENDER TO YEHOVAH GOD. It symbolizes the complete burial of the old self and our beginning a new life surrendered to the will and authority of YEHOVAH God. YEHOVAH demands UNCONDITIONAL surrender to His rule, His authority over our lives. Baptism is the SYMBOL of OUR SURRENDER and desire to OBEY YEHOVAH GOD, no matter what He commands!

Have YOU really surrendered your will and your ENTIRE LIFE to YEHOVAH God?

“In the NAME of Jesus Christ”

Should a person be baptized “in the NAME of Yeshua the Messiah”? Exactly what does this phrase mean?

1. Did Yeshua baptize more disciples than John? **John 3:22 and 4:1**. But did he actually perform the baptisms himself? **John 4:2**. Then who did the baptizing? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: Yeshua did not actually do the physical work of baptizing these people. He had HIS DISCIPLES do it FOR HIM -- IN HIS STEAD!

2. Did the apostles baptize repentant believers in the Messiah’s NAME? **Acts 2:37-38, 41**.

COMMENT: The inspired Greek expression for “in the name of” means “by the AUTHORITY of.” If you do anything in the name of another, you do it with or BY THAT PERSON’S AUTHORITY -- by his express



AN UNUSUAL BAPTISM -- Is this a semi-immersion? a cross between a full immersion and a “pouring”?! This is not a baptism and certainly is not pleasing to YEHOVAH God.

PERMISSION.

Yeshua’s disciples did the baptizing “in Jesus’ name” -- that is, in his stead, FOR him, BY HIS AUTHORITY -- and that was considered just the same as if Yeshua had actually done it himself.

3. Are YEHOVAH’s true ministers today commanded to do ALL things in the NAME of the Messiah? **Colossians 3:17**.

COMMENT: Baptism, when performed by YEHOVAH’s ministers, is therefore

always done “in the NAME of Jesus Christ” -- that is, by his AUTHORITY!

Baptized “Into” What?

1. What further instruction does the Messiah give his ministers concerning baptism? **Matthew 28:19.**

COMMENT: Many have misunderstood this important scripture. Let’s understand exactly what it means.

In **Matthew 28:19** the original Greek word translated “in” is “eis”, and actually means “into.” Therefore, this verse should be translated, “...baptizing them INTO THE NAME of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy spirit.”

In other words, when a person is baptized and receives YEHOVAH’s spirit, he becomes the begotten SON of YEHOVAH God -- YEHOVAH God places HIS OWN NAME on the newly baptized believer! He now carries the name of YEHOVAH GOD. He belongs to YEHOVAH God. He is YEHOVAH’s SON!

This scripture simply means we are baptized or immersed INTO the DIVINE FAMILY NAME CALLED “GOD”! And it is done “in the name” -- by the AUTHORITY -- “OF Jesus Christ.”

At present, the literal spiritual Family of YEHOVAH God consists only of the Father and the Son, Yeshua the Messiah. The holy spirit is the divine nature and power of the God Family -- not a “third person” as some erroneously assume.

2. Are spirit-begotten Christians plainly called “sons of God” in the Bible? **Romans 8:14** and **I John 3:1.**

COMMENT: Our receiving of the holy spirit following baptism merely BEGETS US as the “sons of God.” But we shall ULTIMATELY become YEHOVAH’s BORN sons at the resurrection.

A human being is named after his human father -- carries the same SURNAME as his father. If we become begotten children of

YEHOVAH GOD, we become “God’s-sons,” SONS OF YEHOVAH GOD, though not yet born of Him. We bear the same FAMILY NAME!

Therefore, when we are baptized “into” the name of the Father, Son, and holy spirit, and receive YEHOVAH’s spirit, we automatically become SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN MEMBERS OF THE GOD FAMILY!

Why Baptism Is Necessary

1. Did Yeshua promise his disciples the “baptism” of the holy spirit? **Acts 1:5.** When did the holy spirit finally come? **Acts 2:1, 4.**

COMMENT: On this day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., YEHOVAH God began His spiritual Church (Ecclesia) on earth by putting the holy spirit WITHIN His disciples.

2. Is YEHOVAH’s true Ecclesia actually the “BODY” of the Messiah? **I Corinthians 12:12, 27** and **Colossians 1:18.**

3. HOW do we become MEMBERS of that body -- the true Ecclesia? Can we join it? Or must we be PUT “into” it by YEHOVAH’s spirit? **I Corinthians 12:13.**

COMMENT: In **Romans 8:9**, Paul tells us plainly that unless the spirit of the Messiah dwells within us, we do not belong to him. We become the Messiah’s, then, only when the holy spirit comes into us!

Each MEMBER of the Messiah’s “body” -- his Ecclesia -- is joined to the other by the common bond of YEHOVAH’s holy spirit residing in them. So when we become the Messiah’s by receiving his spirit, we are then put “into” his body -- the Ecclesia of YEHOVAH God -- BY THE HOLY SPIRIT which originates with the Father!

Just being physically baptized in water does not put us into YEHOVAH’s true spirit-led Ecclesia. You must be put into the Ecclesia BY THE SPIRIT OF YEHOVAH GOD! YEHOVAH determines who are the true members (those who have truly repented) by placing His spirit within them. Unless YEHOVAH gives a

person His holy spirit, he might sit among YEHOVAH's people, BUT WOULD NOT BE ONE OF THE "BODY" OF THE MESSIAH!

Therefore, it is the RECEIVING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT which automatically PLUNGES US -- immerses, "baptizes," or PUTS US -- "into" the true Ecclesia of YEHOVAH God! This immersion into the Ecclesia by the holy spirit is termed by the Scriptures, "the baptism WITH," "the baptism BY," or "the baptism of the holy spirit."

HAS YEHOVAH GOD PUT YOU INTO HIS ECCLESIA?

Receiving the Holy Spirit

After a person is baptized, does he immediately receive YEHOVAH's spirit? Or is there something else required first?

Notice what the Scriptures say.

1. Is the "laying on of hands" one of the basic doctrines of YEHOVAH's Word? **Hebrews 6:2.**

2. Why were Peter and John sent to the new disciples in Samaria? **Acts 8:14-16.** What did the apostles do so these new converts could receive the holy spirit? **Verse 17.** Did they lay hands on them and PRAY over them? **Same verse and verse 15.**

3. Did Simon the Magician, called Simon Magus in history, realize that the holy spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands? **Verses 18-19.**

4. When the Apostle Paul came to Ephesus on his third journey, he found people there who had been baptized by John's baptism only -- the baptism of repentance (**Acts 19:1-4**). What happened to these believers after they were baptized in the name of the Messiah, and after Paul laid his hands on them? **Acts 19:6.**

COMMENT: The holy spirit was given to baptized believers when YEHOVAH's servants LAID HANDS ON THEM!

YEHOVAH works in the same way today. YEHOVAH's ministers baptize people who have truly repented of their sins, then lay

hands upon them, and pray over them for the receipt of the holy spirit. Of course, there were some instances where individuals received the holy spirit without the laying on of hands, such as with Cornelius (**Acts 10:44-48**). But they are the SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS and not the rule!

5. After one receives YEHOVAH's spirit, does a sensation or "feeling" overwhelm him? Does he tingle with some ecstatic emotion? **II Timothy 1:7.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH's spirit is the spirit of a SOUND MIND. It does not cause an emotional outburst or some "feeling." When a person receives YEHOVAH's spirit, it enters the MIND of the individual and begets him spiritually. Of course the newly baptized person feels a certain gratitude, joy, and thankfulness, because of his OWN normal emotions. But there is no special ecstatic "feeling" caused by receiving the holy spirit of YEHOVAH God.

Salvation Without Baptism?

Since water baptism is commanded by YEHOVAH God, what about the thief on the tree? Was he saved without being baptized?

Let's notice the plain truth.

1. Does baptism itself SAVE US? **Romans 5:10.**

COMMENT: Baptism in water is NOT what saves us, although it is a commanded step in YEHOVAH's Plan of salvation. As explained before, it is merely SYMBOLIC of that which remits our sins -- the DEATH of the Messiah. It also pictures his resurrection, by which we are finally SAVED.

2. What did the thief on the tree ask the Messiah? **Luke 23:42.** What was Yeshua's reply? **Verse 43.**

COMMENT: This verse SHOULD read, "Verily I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in Paradise." See the *Lamsa translation*, as well as others.

Most translations are improperly punctuated in order to make it appear that Yeshua and the thief would be in Paradise that

very day. However, the Bible shows Yeshua did not go to Paradise that day. He went to the GRAVE! (I Corinthians 15:3-4; Mark 15:44-46.)

The *Companion Bible* states, "The interpretation of this verse depends entirely on punctuation, which rests wholly on human authority, the Greek manuscripts having no punctuation of any kind TILL THE NINTH CENTURY, and then it is only a dot (in the middle of the line) separating each word" (Appendix 173).

The truth is that the thief was UNABLE to be baptized. Since baptism is NOT the thing which saves us, or gives us eternal life, he did not lose salvation because of circumstances beyond his control. YEHOVAH makes allowances for such cases. But YEHOVAH GOD COMMANDS water baptism for all who are able. If a person deliberately ignores, rejects, defies or refuses this Biblical command, this would be an act of disobedience to YEHOVAH God; and unless repented of, would cause loss of salvation.

We need not worry about the thief on the tree, or anyone utterly UNABLE TO be baptized. We do need to be very MUCH concerned, however, about obeying YEHOVAH's plain command when we ARE ABLE!

When to Be Baptized

Many put off baptism. They feel they are too infirm, too old, too weak -- or they feel they are "not ready" yet SPIRITUALLY. Some think they must be PERFECT BEFORE being baptized!

What misunderstanding of the inspired Word of YEHOVAH God!

How could a person be "perfect" BEFORE he has received YEHOVAH's holy spirit, which helps us to BECOME perfect?

The truth is, NONE of these excuses is any good in YEHOVAH's sight. There is NO EXCUSE! If a person KNOWS enough about YEHOVAH's Plan, KNOWS that YEHOVAH

commands baptism, knows that he SHOULD be baptized, and his conscience convicts him -- THEN HE SHOULD BE BAPTIZED!

Old age makes no difference with YEHOVAH God. Circumstances make no difference. The truth is, there is NO EXCUSE for not being baptized when a person UNDERSTANDS this vital, urgent spiritual truth.

But WHEN should a person be baptized?

1. When the Ethiopian eunuch learned the truth of YEHOVAH God, and came to understand the Messiah was his Savior, did he hesitate about being baptized? Did he put it off? **Acts 8:35-38.**

2. When Paul was first converted, and learned THE MESSIAH is the firstborn Son of YEHOVAH God, whom he had been persecuting, did he procrastinate about being baptized? **Acts 9:16-18.**

COMMENT: Neither of these men put off water baptism. They saw their own personal need. They knew they NEEDED the Messiah as their Savior and NEEDED their sins covered by his shed blood. They felt dirty and despicable before YEHOVAH God, as long as they stood before him in their sins. They knew they were the SLAVES of sin, and did not have YEHOVAH's holy spirit dwelling within them.

Therefore, AS SOON AS WAS POSSIBLE, THEY WERE BAPTIZED!

Only ONE WAY to Salvation

How clear it is. Mere "acceptance" of the Messiah is not enough. Mere profession of him won't save anyone! Merely "believing" on him, the Scriptures show, won't save you.

Much more is needed! Belief on the Messiah is only the BEGINNING.

One must also believe the gospel message -- the GOOD NEWS of the world to come -- which he preached!

In addition to believing on the Messiah, and believing the Gospel he brought, one must also come to see his own SINS and his rotten

human nature for what they really are. He must cry out to YEHOVAH God for forgiveness, REPENTING of his sins and sinful nature.

Then a person is "READY" for baptism.

This is the way to salvation GOD has ordained. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!

After one is baptized, and has the laying on of hands, he receives the SPIRIT OF YEHOVAH GOD which plunges him into the body of the Messiah -- the true Ecclesia of YEHOVAH God. He becomes a begotten SON OF YEHOVAH GOD, a member of the DIVINE FAMILY of YEHOVAH God! He becomes an heir of salvation and a true Christian!

Are You a Christian?

You have PROVEN to yourself from YEHOVAH's own inspired Word that baptism in water is a commanded step in YEHOVAH's Plan of salvation. The Messiah commanded it. The apostles did it. The early inspired New Testament Ecclesia practiced it.

Yeshua the Messiah warned, "He that believeth and is BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED; but he that believeth not shall be DAMNED [or, condemned, judged]" (**Mark 16:16**).

The Messiah COMMANDED his true followers, "Go you therefore, and TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM..." (**Matthew 28:19**).

Have YOU been baptized? Have you repented of your sins and your evil, filthy, rotten human nature? Have YOU accepted Yeshua the Messiah as your own personal Savior and coming High Priest and king?

Do YOU DESIRE SALVATION?

Examine yourself!

Perhaps you were "sprinkled" when a child. Or perhaps a man of the cloth "poured" water over your head. If so, then you need to admit that YOU WERE NOT BAPTIZED!

Unless you have been baptized by IMMERSION, after SINCERELY REPENTING of your sins, and have received the gift of

YEHOVAH's precious holy spirit as a begettal, YOU ARE NOT A CHRISTIAN! SO says your Bible (**Romans 8:9**).

The Vital QUESTION

The vital question many of you students face today is: Will you SURRENDER your life to YEHOVAH God, and DO as He says? will YOU repent of your sins -- your transgressions of YEHOVAH's Law -- accept the Messiah as your Savior, and be BAPTIZED?

Only you can make that decision. No one can make it for you. But don't put it off!

In your next lesson, we will answer such questions as: Should infants or children be baptized? Are we to be baptized for the dead? What is the "baptism with fire"? And how can you be sure that your baptism (if you have already been immersed) is VALID in YEHOVAH's sight? We will also discuss footwashing as an extension of baptism.

All of these questions, and others, will be thoroughly covered and explained in Lesson 28.

Answers to Questions in Lesson 26:

1. The Bible. 2. The promise YEHOVAH God made to him. 3. No! 4. Yes. 5. No
6. Yes, the Bible shows that we do. 7. The area of Palestine. 8. The whole earth. 9. the Messiah. 10. No 11. Yes.
12. Yes, the Bible says it does. 13. No, it will take but a "moment." 14. There is still time left, but none to spare. 15. Sin and the results of sin have to be removed from it.

Hope of Israel Ministries -- Preparing the Way for the Return of YEHOVAH God and the Messiah!

NOTES:

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: Is water baptism essential for us to receive the power of the holy spirit? _____

Question 2: Is it true that “The Baptism of the Holy Spirit” was only for the apostles and the Messiah? _____

Question 3: What must we do to show proof of our belief and true repentance?

Question 4: Is it true that in order to become a member of the body of the Messiah -- the true Ecclesia of YEHOVAH God -- we need only to be baptized?

Question 5: How does one receive the holy spirit after baptism? _____

Question 6: Who, that typified the burial of our old carnal, sinful self in the waters of New Testament baptism, was buried in the Red Sea? _____

Question 7: Is it true that the Messiah personally baptized more people than John?

Question 8: What does rising up out of the water after baptism picture? _____

Question 9: Is it true that the story of Noah and the flood is not used by YEHOVAH God as a type of water baptism? _____

Question 10: The Greek word “baptizo,” from which we derive “baptize,” means (a) “to pour.” (b) “to sprinkle.” (c) “to immerse, plunge into, or put into.” _____

Question 11: What is the laying on of hands necessary for? _____

Question 12: Are sprinkling and pouring counterfeit modes of baptism introduced by men and not by YEHOVAH God? _____

Question 13: At the present time the literal spiritual family of YEHOVAH God consists of (a) two persons. (b) a “trinity” of three persons. (c) YEHOVAH God alone. ____

Question 14: Must one figuratively bury his old self in the waters of baptism to become a spirit-led Christian? _____

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 24-28, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.