

Message# 177 - 2-13-2022 - Christians Believe that Jesus Fulfilled the Prophets - H2O Water Baptism Ended with the Old Covenant

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Good morning everyone. As always - I'm glad that you are back! Thank you for taking time to listen to what I believe may be - last week I said "some" - might be some of the most important messages I've ever preached - I am leaning towards dropping "some" and leaving it as - the most important messages God has ever laid on my heart to preach. I know, speaking for myself - and now I will absolutely add - speaking for others, also, that these are the most exciting, most interesting, most thought-provoking and most engaging messages I've ever preached.

Please hear me now. I can't help that the messages are divisive for some people. They aren't meant to be. For those of you who have been listening to me for several years now - I have told you over and over that if there is anything that we believe concerning the Bible - that has been shaped or molded from something called "church" - if your belief system - if my belief system - has any traces of something called "church" in it - we must - we've got to completely reevaluate everything that has come from "church" - because friends - as nice as some of them may seem to be - as clean and warm and fuzzy as some of them may seem to be - it is impossible for them to possess spiritual truth.

I mentioned this a few weeks ago. Go to the Metropolitan "church" of Los Angeles. Without stepping one foot inside that place - I will guarantee you that it is the warmest, most friendly, most loving "appearing" - most welcoming "church" probably in California - maybe in the entire u.s. You will hear the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. You can even be H2O water immersed in the - right from their website - in the "name of the Risen King!" (exclamation point, quote from their website) - but friends - the Jesus that is preached, the Jesus in whose name baptisms are performed - is not the Jesus, the Yeshua that came in the first century and fulfilled the Law that Yahweh gave to Moses, and fulfilled the prophets.

Come to the Metropolitan "church" of Los Angeles as LGBTQ - get Jesus - get baptized in the "name of Jesus" - for the remission of sins - and go home as a wet LGBTQ and rest assured that your eternal destiny is covered by the blood of Jesus. I'm sorry. It's error. It's life killing error - it's not of God - and you better believe it is divisive for me to say so at this time in our generation - but I'll say it - I'm not ashamed to say it - I'm going to say it. Don't get mad at the messenger.

The same can be said about the “Baptist churches”, the “church of Christ churches”, the Mormons, the Pentecostals, the Assemblies of God - and those people even at one time knew the word “church” was not supposed to be in the Bible - that's why they call themselves the “Assemblies of God.” Today, however, a great many of them are dropping the non-inclusive “Assembly of God” and are adopting the far more inclusive “church” in their names.

“Churches” teach that the Law that God gave Moses - that was the sacrificial system - was done away with - *and it was* - but to the extent that the moral Law of God that was never intended to be done away with - has now been replaced with man's “laws” - man now has the ordination by God to define and redefine good and evil - then - legislate “laws” into existence that force people - through threats of violence and terror - to obey their definitions of good and evil - and forsake God's definitions of good and evil. In addition to that, the “churches” teach that the prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. So the One Who fulfilled the Law and the prophets - is - *not a chance* - not even the remotest chance - is He the One that was the Messiah - the One Who fulfilled the promise to David of sitting on the throne - the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the One, the Only Potentate, the King of kings.

Friends, evidence this fact that every single one of these “churches” flies the u.s. flag in the left front corner of every single one of their buildings - and in the front of their buildings - for the whole world to see - the u.s. flag is flying - and if they happen to be flying what they call the “Christian flag” in the same area as the u.s. flag - their “christian flag” - which is not a “christian flag” it is a “churchian flag” IS ALWAYS - I've been logging this in my brain for 40 plus years now - the u.s. flag is ALWAYS flying higher than what they call the “christian flag.”

The Lord Jesus said, “Seek ye first the Government of God - and His righteousness...” What does that mean? His righteousness? That means His definitions of good and evil, right and wrong. That's really simple. That should be very easy to understand. But, because virtually everything most people think they know about the Bible has come from the “church” - which teaches that the Kingdom of God is in the future - there's not 1 person out of a million today that is seeking first the Government of God in their lives. If a man is not seeking first - the Government of God in his life - how can he possibly understand the spiritual things that God has prepared for those who follow Him?

The “church” can only understand the Bible on the most superficial level. They cannot understand the deep things of God - because those things require spiritual discernment

- and by trading the Law of God for men's laws - by trading the simple, basic truth that Jesus, that Yeshua fulfilled the prophets in the first century - they are lost. They are the blind leading the blind - and they both have fallen into the ditch.

If my preaching against “church doctrine” causes people to have fits - then - friends - it simply has to be so. I've told you before - do you think it's fun having most people that know you - do you think it's fun knowing that people hate you because of how you preach? I'll assure you, it's not fun. I don't preach what I preach because it's popular - I preach what I preach because it's the Word of God - and it is the Word of God that has been purposely hidden from our generation. And the next generation is following exactly where the previous generation has been. And it has to stop.

So, again, if anything you believe about the Bible has had any origins from something called “church” - I'm telling you - you better reexamine everything you've ever heard - and when the messenger delivers a correction - don't get mad - don't get upset - study it for yourself to find out whether or not the things that are being said line up with Scripture or not.

Let me remind you again that we are planning a get-together at the Maranatha Bible Camp and Event Center on what the world calls March 17 through the 20th. We have plenty of room left if you would like to join us. The only thing we ask for is that you help us with the cost of the rooms. We will be providing the food and will only ask for donations to help us cover the cost of the food.

Please open your Bibles to Hebrews chapter 9 this morning. And let's read again, what I said would be the foundational passage for this series - H2O Water Baptism Ended with the Old Covenant - which incidentally is the title provided to me by one of my closest associates. I did not come up with that title - it was provided to me. But it's good so it's going to stick. Hebrews 9, verse 1:

[1] Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

[2] For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

[3] And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

[4] Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

[5] And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

I made a comment last week about this. Paul was not an eye-witness to the first tabernacle. He could only speak second hand about that.

[6] Now when these things were thus ordained,

[6] Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

[7] But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

[8] The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

[9] Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

[10] Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Let the Scriptures speak for themselves.

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[9] Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

[10] Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings,

And I showed you last week, the word washings is baptismos. Different baptisms, imposed on them UNTIL THE TIME OF REFORMATION.

and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

[10] Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Friends, this should not be difficult. We saw last week the Ordinances of the Law that God gave Moses pertaining to meats and drinks. We saw - this is the Law of Yahweh -

which required the washing of clothes and the washing of the body - for the purification for sin - and we have seen the fleshly Ordinances of the Law that God gave Moses - and Paul - clearly says - those things were required - they were imposed on the Israelites under the Old Covenant - imposed on them until the time of reformation.

This is referring to the end of the Old Covenant World - when the temple was destroyed - and the beginning of the New Covenant World. When all things were made new - at the reformation - those things that were imposed on them for the purification of sins - were replaced. Verse 11.

[11] But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

[12] Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

[13] For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

[14] How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

And that's another way of saying - baptize your conscience - to serve the living God.

Verses 12 through 14 have been copied and pasted right from Numbers chapter 19. In fact, Numbers 19 is the only other place in the whole Bible where the "ashes of an heifer" is mentioned. Look at it again, please. It's redundant, I know that it is, but we need to see these things over and over and over. Many people listening to me have had 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 or more years of "church" doctrine crammed down their throats - friends - it's not just the blood - it is the water and the blood. Look at it again, please, Numbers 19. Don't anyone even try to say that what Paul is talking about here in Hebrews 9 is not Numbers 19 - it's nearly word for word.

[9] And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.

[10] And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a statute for ever.

[17] And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel:

And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave:

[19] And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even.

[20] But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, (the one who refuses to wash his clothes, the one who refuses to bathe himself in water) that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of Yahweh: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean.

[21] And it shall be a perpetual statute unto them, that he that sprinkleth the water of separation shall wash his clothes; and he that toucheth the water of separation shall be unclean until even.

[22] And whatsoever the unclean person toucheth shall be unclean; and the soul that toucheth it shall be unclean until even.

Hebrews 9:11-14

[11] But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

[12] Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

[13] For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Once again, cleansing, baptisimos, hatnidzo, and on and on with many other words describing water cleansing.

[14] How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

[15] And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal

inheritance.

[16] For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

[17] For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

[18] Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

[19] For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, **with water**, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

Look at verse 19 again, please.

[19] For when Moses had spoken **every precept to all the people** according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, **with water**, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

Moses took the blood with the water. He took the blood with the water. He took the blood with the water. It wasn't just the blood. It was blood and running water. This is very clear.

[20] Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

[21] Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

[22] And almost all things are by the law purged with blood;

That's something we are going to get into as well. "Almost all things?" So some things are purged without blood? John was baptizing for the remission of sins. Which sins?

Go look at the story of Naaman again. When Elisha told Naaman how to be cleansed - did he tell Naaman to sacrifice an animal? No. He didn't. He told himself to baptize himself seven times in the river Jordan. Cleansed without blood.

and without shedding of blood is no remission.

[23] It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

[24] For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the

figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

[25] Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

[26] For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

[27] And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

[28] So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

A few weeks ago, in passing, it wasn't the main subject of the message, but in passing, I asked you what does H2O water baptism look like? If H2O water baptism is for the New Covenant World - please take your Bible and show me chapter and verse what this looks like. If H2O water baptism is an essential element to salvation in the New Covenant World - shouldn't we know what it looks like? How is it to be performed? Is there an incantation or words that are supposed to be said before, during or after the ceremony? Does someone baptize themselves, or does someone else baptize them? And what does this look like?

I have never said H2O water baptisms were not taking place in the book of Acts. I've said to the contrary - there is no question they were taking place. They were still in the Old Covenant and they were absolutely performing the rituals of the Old Covenant. All of them. Not just H2O baptisms - but the blood sacrifices as well.

Was it ever acceptable for people to just make up what the Law of God was? Did God ever leave it up to people just to arbitrarily decide what obedience to Him looked like?

If H2O water baptism, if the ritual, the ceremony, the "sacrament"....you know when I was growing up - young - playing "church" - I mean young - early teens - I used to hear "preachers" in the "churches" talk about "the sacraments." And as a little kid - that used to wear me out. That bothered me so bad I couldn't stand it. The word "sacraments" is a pure concoction from something called "church."

I just typed in a search for the word "sacraments" and I found the following statement. It's from BibleStudyTools.com. I'm not recommending it or endorsing it. I'm just telling you I found the following statement there, quote:

Whether referring to an oath of obedience or to something set apart for a sacred purpose, it is evident that sacramentum would readily lend itself to describe such ordinances as Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In the Greek New Testament, however, there is no word nor even any general idea corresponding to "sacrament," nor does the earliest history of Christianity afford any trace of the application of the term to certain rites of the "church." Pliny (circa 112 AD) describes the Christians of Bithynia as "binding themselves by a sacramentum to commit no kind of crime" (Epistles x.97), but scholars are now pretty generally agreed that Pliny here uses the word in its old Roman sense of an oath or solemn obligation, so that its occurrence in this passage is nothing more than an interesting coincidence. End quote.

Last summer, if you recall, we had a quasi-debate with some "churchmen" regarding whether or not "christians were to obey caesar." And in the course of that debate, the "churchmen" kept asking me about the "sacraments." It was - well - weird to me. "Sacraments" - rituals - these are creations of something called "church" which are in most cases - traditions from jews - that have been "christianized" - better stated - "churchianized" - and taken from the Old Covenant World - and brought forward into the New World. They have no place in the New Covenant World. "Sacraments?" Rituals? That's Old World stuff that has no place in the New World.

When I was in my last "church" position, the "preacher" there used to refer to his "sacerdotal duties." This was a baptist, now. And that used to bother me. But "sacerdotal duties" was a term that helped the IRS determine whether or not to tax the "churchman" or not. Above, I told you that "sacraments" have no place in the New Covenant World - they are carryovers from the Old Covenant.

Do you know what "sacerdotal" means? Here's the definition from Webster's 1828.

SACERDOTAL, adjective [Latin sacerdotalis, from sacerdos, a priest. See Sacred.] Pertaining to priests or the priesthood; priestly; as sacerdotal dignity; sacerdotal functions or garments; sacerdotal character.

According to the IRS and according to the "Baptist preacher" - the sacerdotal duties were the administering of the sacraments, funerals, weddings, baptisms, the "Lord's supper", etc., etc.

Let's get side-tracked for just a second. Speaking of the "sacrament of the Lord's supper." It's off the subject just a little, but let me ask you this morning? Do you believe

that the prophets have been fulfilled? Do you believe that the end of the Old Covenant has taken place? Do you believe that Yeshua returned in flaming glory at AD70 - just exactly like He said He would - when He said - as plainly and clearly as anything else He ever said,

“This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.”

Please turn to I Corinthians chapter 11. How many of you remember the “sacrament of the Lord's Supper” when you were playing “church?” I remember. I remember that feeling of being afraid to eat the little piece of cracker if I couldn't remember whether or not I had asked forgiveness for all my sins. Had I forgotten one? Was there something I did or said that I had forgotten to ask forgiveness for? Because, you know, if you eat the cracker, or drink the grape juice, and you had unconfessed sin in your life - you very well might drop dead as soon as you at the thumbnail sized cracker or the shot of grape juice. That's what they used to tell me. This is I Corinthians 11:23-26:

[23] For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

[24] And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

[25] After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

[26] For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.

Do this until He come. There are some “churches” out there that demand the ritual ceremony of the “Lord's supper” and if you don't perform this ritual - you are lost.

No. What the “church” calls sacraments, what the world and the “church” call sacerdotal duties - they are not for the New Covenant World. The rituals and ceremonies that were required of Moses - *the real ones* - the real ones that Yahweh commanded Moses to tell the people to participate in - THOSE have been done away with. Now we have the “church” doing all it can do to resurrect rituals - and even add to things that were never required under the Law that God gave Moses.

Back from the sidetrack.

What does H2O water baptism look like? Don't you think that if this was a requirement in the New Covenant World - the Bible would tell us exactly what we are supposed to do? Does the type of water matter? Do we baptize ourselves? Does someone else baptize us? What does this look like? All we have, friends, are guesses. We have clear allusions to water - physical H2O water. In some of the baptisms that we seen that were performed in the last days of the Old Covenant - we can see that physical H2O water was involved. In SOME of the baptisms. Not ALL of them.

Since you are in I Corinthians 11, turn back to chapter 10 again. Read again the first four verses.

- [1] Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
- [2] And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- [3] And did all eat the same spiritual meat;
- [4] And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Was this baptism? Of course it was. The text says it as plain as day. Did this baptism have anything to do with H2O water? Other than the fact that the clouds held water and the seas were rolled back like a wall - and the children of Israel walked through the sea on dry land - they were baptized - and didn't get a drop of water on them.

Turn to Luke chapter 3, please. Begin in verse 3. I want to remind you again that one of the reasons we are in this series is because the fulfillment of the prophets and the baptism of John are many times spoken hand in hand. We've seen that in several places. Verse 3: Again, I'm asking, are all baptisms H2O water?

- [3] And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

Stop here for a second. Look at what it says. John was

preaching the baptism of repentance.

Wait a minute. I have been thinking about this all week. First off, preaching the baptism of repentance. So far - this has nothing to do with H2O. John's baptism will - I believe - have H2O in it - absolutely. I've said a thousand times - the purification for sin clearly

shown in the Law of God in the Old Covenant - required washing in H2O water. That's very clear. It was water and blood. Water and blood. But in verse 3 - it is telling people to be immersed in repentance - immersion of repentance for the remission of sins. This is really important, because when we dig deeper into the study of judaism, you will hear the rabbis say over and over - that the cleansing is of the heart - and if the one being immersed in the H2O - is not understanding their need for repentance - then no amount of H2O water is going to have an effect. Yes. That's what the rabbis of today say - when they say that H2O water immersion is required for conversion to judaism. We'll get into that soon, maybe even this morning.

Being fully immersed into repentance. Being fully aware of the need to repent. That is a baptism. Being fully immersed into anything - is a baptism. I wish I could remember what it was - but I was watching some Youtube videos the other day, and an ad popped up - a totally secular ad - nothing to do with "religion" and they used the word "baptized" when talking about the product they were selling. Engrossed with, consumed by, fully immersed in and it doesn't necessarily always mean water. Reading verse 3 alone - John was preaching that Israelites were to be fully consumed by - fully immersed into - fully committed to - repentance for the remission of sins.

Yes, there were H2O water rituals prescribed in the Law God gave to Moses for the purification of sin - but those rituals were only there to point to the blood of Christ and the water that poured from His side. Repentance was always an act of a man's heart. The purification had to do with cleansing a man's heart - which physical H2O - physical blood - could never do. Verse 4.

[4] As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

[5] Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

[6] And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Side note. I hope you see this. There are many many many "preachers, churchians" who say that this is yet to occur. They say that Isaiah's prophecy has not occurred yet - but will be fulfilled when "Jesus comes again." Friends, if this prophecy of Isaiah was not fulfilled in the first century by Jesus, by Yeshua, then John the Baptist was not the Elijah of Malachi 3 and 4, and Jesus, Yeshua was not the Messiah / King. Now verse 7.

[7] Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

[8] Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

[9] And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

[10] And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

[11] He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

[12] Then came also publicans (the tax collectors) to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

[13] And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

[14] And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do?

And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

Do you understand what John was telling these people? John was telling them to repent of what they were doing - go back and repent - stop what you are doing - then come back to be baptized.

I've been hearing from churchmen for 40 years now - "Stop telling people they need to accept Him as Lord. He's Saviour - then He becomes Lord.

[15] And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

[16] John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

I'm not sure how my teaching that John said - there are two baptisms - mine - the one that I do in obedience to the Old Covenant Law that God gave Moses - and John clearly saying that there is another baptism coming - the One that is mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:....I'm not sure how my reading this verse turned me into a pro-pentecostalist "churchman." I am a NO "churchman". I don't believe or teach anything the way any "church" teaches. If one could easily get through my archives they

would find that I have said that pentecostalists are even harder to deal with than Baptists. Pentecostalism is a faith - a system of belief based on feelings and emotions and experiences. They've had fistfights with the devil. They've had Jesus sitting on the edge of their bed in the middle of the night telling them what things to do in their lives. They've had paranormal experiences of speaking in tongues and having their bodies taken over and falling completely out of control. They've watched people with no arms and legs get touched by Benny Hinn and right in front of everyone watched as they grew new arms and legs. Yeah, right. And when these people have had these experiences - nothing you will ever say to them will convince them - because they experienced it - they saw it - the Word of God will not convince them that their experiences were due to bad pizza too late at night.

Be careful of experiences. Do you think the people in these “churches” that have their baptism parties complete with their rock bands and their celebrations - when someone comes out of that mikveh - I mean that baptistry - to cheers and thunderous applause - do you think that's not an experience? That is a rush that the person going through that will never forget as long as they live. But friends, all they did was get fully immersed into something called “church.” They did not become fully immersed into Jesus Christ because they were not taught to give up everything they have, come out from the kingdoms of the world, take up a cross, and exclusively follow the King of kings and Lord of lords.

In fulfillment of the Law that God gave to Moses and Aaron, John was absolutely baptizing - he was overseeing the cleansing of their clothes, the ritual cleansing of their bodies - absolutely - that is exactly what John was doing. The great majority of the people of that day had - turn over to Mark chapter 7, please. Keep your finger here, turn to Mark 7. Begin in verse 1:

[1] Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.

[2] And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault.

[3] For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

[4] And when they come from the market, except they wash,

...except they wash....

The Greek word here - baptizo - which means

to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)

to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe, to overwhelm

...except they baptize, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.

[5] Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

[6] He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

[7] Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

[8] For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

[9] And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

So John was baptizing for the remission of sins. What were these sins that they were committing that needed to be remitted? Could it be that, just like verse 7 says, they had started teaching their own doctrines - the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God - they had begun holding to their traditions....as the washing of pots and cups and many other such like things ye do.

Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

What sins did the H2O water baptism of John wash away? Well, first of all, the ritual of the H2O didn't wash any sins away. The cleansing was a matter of the heart - and it had nothing whatsoever to do with the H2O. The H2O ritual of the Old Covenant World stood for the Promise of Living Water that would someday come through the Messiah / King. Hebrews 9 has made it clear that the blood and water rituals of the Old Covenant Ordinances could never take away sin. That's why they were performed over and over and over again in the Old Covenant World.

So John said, "Look all I am doing is baptizing you with water,

but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to
unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

I said all that to say this, baptism in the Old Covenant World - was not always with H₂O water. I showed you last week how Christ Himself referred to His execution as a baptism (Matthew 20:22-23). Whenever you see the word baptism in the last 25 books of the Old Covenant - it is not always H₂O physical water. When you read the details of the Law that God gave to Moses and Aaron - the water is H₂O physical water. And, just like the blood of the animals was pointing to the final sacrifice of Christ, **so was the water**. It wasn't just the blood. It was the blood and the water.

No honest reader, no honest teacher or preacher of the Christian Bible, can take you to chapter and verse and show you exactly what H₂O water baptism - while they tell you that H₂O water baptism is an essential element of conversion - they cannot take their Bible and show you exactly how that is to be performed. How it's done? What does it look like? Who does it? What needs to be said - or does anything need to be said?

For all those people out there that were "baptized" by a "preacher" that believes in the u.s. CONstitution, "preachers" that "pastor" 501(c)(3) government "churches" - was that baptism valid? What about people who were "baptized" by "preachers" who believe that Jesus did not fulfill the prophets? How about "preachers" who preach the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, and they teach that people need to be baptized in the name of the Risen King - then you go back to your sodomite partner and not only continue living in sodomy - but revel in it because Jesus accepted you - just like you are?

If a "preacher" like that performed the "baptism" - did it do any good?

I'm telling you, nearly the whole world that claims to be followers of a Jesus, have placed their trust in some form of an H₂O water baptism ritual - and they are no more fully immersed into Christ - than the man in the moon.

Well, the Baptists can't take their Bibles and show what H₂O water baptism is supposed to look like. The "church of Christs" can't do it, the pentecostals can't do it - none of them can take their Bibles and show what it is supposed to look like. In fact, for the most part - I don't even see them making an attempt to show what it looks like.

It's just tradition. It's just a ritual that has been passed down from generation to generation - from church to church - each one of them has their tradition - and not a single one of them can take their Bibles and show you chapter and verse what it looks like.

If H2O water baptism is required under the New Covenant, then please, take your Bible and show me what it looks like. I do not believe that God would leave this up to men to try and figure out what the ritual was supposed to be - if it were an essential element of salvation. This might be why I heard a preacher say that - "people need to keep doing it until they get it right." So, keep doing it until they get it right? What does that mean? I'll tell you what it has meant to a lot of people. Go from "church to church" - "denomination to denomination" and get baptized in all of them - until you find the one that fits you best.

I know people who have been "baptized" by the catholics, they've been "baptized" by the Baptists, "baptized" by the pentecostals. Surely, one of those baptisms will be the "right" one. I believe the reason why there are no details in the Bible as to what H2O water baptism is supposed to look like - is on purpose. Turn to I Corinthians chapter 1, please. Let's begin in verse 10.

[10] Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Sadly, one of the reasons why this appears to be so difficult today is that all my life I've heard preachers say that we cannot achieve "perfection." We cannot achieve "perfect doctrine." Even though there are quite a few passages of Scripture that say otherwise - as long as we have the idea that it is impossible to have "perfect doctrine" - rest assured - we'll never get there. And continual divisions and fussing and arguing and fighting will be the norm - why not - it's accepted - in fact - it's expected.

[11] For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

[12] Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

[13] Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Now watch what Paul says next.

[14] I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

[15] Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

[16] And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

What? If H2O water baptism is an essential element - required for the washing away of sins - why in the world was Paul saying he was glad he didn't baptize any of them?

If H2O water baptism is an essential element in the conversion process - wouldn't you be baptizing everyone that came near you? Verse 17:

[17] For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

[18] For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel:

I showed you last week from Acts 21 - James did not get it, yet. He had not figured out all the implications of the passing of the Old Covenant World.

James had told Paul - we have seen thousands of Judahites convert to Jesus. Thousands of them were believers in Yeshua. Thousands had come to Christ. And they are all zealous of the Law. Then we saw how James demanded that Paul go in to the temple - be baptized first - ritually and physically cleansed - then go into the temple and participate in sacrificing of animals. Yes!

They are all zealous of the Law. Yes. In the book of Acts - believers in Christ - were zealous - they were keeping the Law that God gave to Moses. Now listen, they were performing sacrifices in the temple and keeping the H2O water purification rituals that accompanied each sacrifice. They were obeying the Law. They were doing what John the Baptist had called them back into repentance.

“You people have traded the commandments of God for your own traditions. Now repent that you are not following the Law of God.”

When Christ Himself told the people in Mark 7 they were not following the commandments of God - but rather had chosen the doctrines of men - what do you think He was talking about? What commandments of God was He talking about? He was talking about the Laws that God gave Moses and Aaron. He was talking about the sacrificial Laws of the Old Covenant.

So, indeed, by all means, when Christ told people in the first century to obey the Laws of God - what do you think they did? They flocked to the temple. They flocked to the baptismal pools, they brought their sacrifices, they obeyed the Law of God.

This is why James told Paul - as clearly as can be in Acts 21 -

“You need to walk orderly....you need to obey the Law.”

This is so vitally important that we understand this. Turn back to Acts 21 again, please. Begin in verse 17. This begins with Paul coming to Jerusalem and meeting with James. Verse 17:

[17] And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

[18] And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

[19] And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

They were sharing how many people had become followers of Christ.

[20] And when they heard it, (James and his group) they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, (look Paul, look at how many judahites there are that believe) how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

Again. What Law is James talking about?

Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

All these believers, thousands of them which believe - and they are all zealous of the Law. This is the Law that God gave Moses and Aaron.

No where in the Gospels does Christ make it as clear as Paul does when - concerning the end of the Old Covenant age. An argument could certainly be made that they should have figured out that once the temple was destroyed - all their rituals would go away, too. But that's simply not the case. Christ had spent His entire ministry - telling people to obey His Father's Commandments. So, here we have James and the thousands of Judahite believers that - yes - by all means - they were zealous of the Law.

They were doing what they had been instructed to do. They were keeping the Law.

In the meantime, Paul was beginning to figure out just what the end of the Old Covenant World meant. The implications of not having a physical temple. Oh, the sacrifice of Jesus was what God was trying to show Moses what the meaning of the scape goat was. Jesus' death on the cross, fulfilled the Law of Moses, it fulfilled the prophecies - Paul was figuring that out - James still had a ways to go. James was obeying the Law that God gave Moses and was leading the Judahites in zealously keeping the Law that God gave Moses. He hadn't figured it out by that time.

Christ had only been ascended into heaven for 40 days by the day of Pentecost. Those men had not figured it all out in the 40 days that Christ was gone. While the temple was still in place - the ordinances of divine service were still in place. James goes on to say to Paul, verse 21:

[21] And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Judahites which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.

[22] What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

[23] Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them;

[24] Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; **but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.**

Numbers 6 is exactly what this is talking about.

[25] As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things

offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.
[26] Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, **until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.**

signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them....

What is that? And why isn't that spelled out here in the book of Acts? It was three days and seven days according to the record found in the book of Numbers. It isn't spelled out here in the book of Acts because these people knew exactly what they were doing. They were zealous of the Law that God gave Moses and Aaron and they knew it like the back of their hands.

And friends, if you think this is the only time, like this is some isolated event where James told Paul to obey the Law God gave to Moses - and he did it - you need to rethink it.

They were zealous of the Law.

This was no isolated event. They did it as often as the Law told them to do it. And I think that Paul went on and did it because he was still trying to figure it all out for himself. It is not until you begin getting into Paul's epistles do we start to see Paul figuring it out even more - and finally - we get to the book of Hebrews and it becomes crystal clear.

Those Last Days, the end times, the last days of the Old Covenant World - because most people have been fed futurism all their lives - they've never really looked at what those Last Days were as thoroughly as they should.

The "churches" don't want to touch Acts 21. And when they do, their arguments are so shallow, well that's to be expected. They do not have spiritual eyes to see what was going on. They were zealous of the Law because that's what they were told to be. They had not yet fully understood what it was all about. Their learning was a gradual learning because it had to be. The temple was still in place until AD70. They had not yet had the completed Word of God, either. That's a major point that should be emphasized.

Somehow we think that James and Peter and those guys knew what was to be written

in the book of Hebrews. Well, Acts 21 makes it abundantly clear that they did not know what would be written in the book of Hebrews, otherwise they would not have still been zealous of the Law - they would not have been ritually purifying themselves with the water and the blood of animals sacrificed according to the Law.

Now, I have said, I cannot find a “Jesus church” today - that will even begin to make the claim that they can go to the Bible and tell others what the Bible says H2O water immersion rituals are supposed to look like. But, there is a religion going strong today, that does make that claim.

If you recall, I touched on something called mikvah weeks, maybe months ago. If you want to find a religion that goes into great detail - as to what H2O water immersion looks like - then go to the Jew. Go to Judaism and you will find volumes written discussing the details of physical H2O water immersion.

There is so much written, I almost don't know where to begin. But we must. I have to show these things to you. People in the “Christian” world, in the “churchian” world - have somehow got the idea that baptism was something new. It was something new that John the Baptist brought onto the scene. That is simply not true. The H2O water baptism ritual is all over the Law that God gave to Moses. Before I forget, I want to read Hebrews 9 to you from the Wycliffe version. Recall please that the KJV says this:

For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

Now listen to the Wycliffe version:

For when each commandment of the law was read of Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves, and of bucks of goats, with water, and red wool, and hyssop, and besprinkled both that book and all the people, 20 and said [saying], This is the blood of the testament, that God commanded to you.

Listen to Tyndale translated Hebrews 9:10:

For when all the commaundementes were redde of Moses vnto all the people he toke ye bloud of calves and of Gotes with water and purple woll and ysope and sprynkled both the boke and all the people 20 sayinge: this is the bloud of the

testament which god hath apoynted vnto you.

These are saying that all the commandments - after all the commandments were read unto all the people - Moses took the blood with the water - he took the blood with the water. It wasn't just the blood. It was the blood and the water. I'm telling you friends, the water is all over the Ordinances of divine service contained in the first covenant.

Alright. Mikveh. We are going to read a lot - because there is tons of information to read - concerning mikveh.

Water rituals are all over the Old Covenant because the water of the Old Covenant is meant to drive people to the understanding that the Messiah King was the Living Water - the Water that He offered - it would not be like the water of the Old Covenant sacrifice that could never wash away sins - permanently - the water of the Old Covenant required that it be implemented over and over and over - because it could never make the comers perfect - the Living Water that Jesus, that Yeshua offered would be such that a man would never thirst again.

I am telling you that the water of the Old Covenant - all the way up to the time just before the temple was destroyed in AD70 - that physical H2O water was invaluable in the Old Covenant world.

Now, judaism claims that the mikvah is the place where one consummates his conversion to judaism. We'll get into all that in just a minute. But first, let's see if we can find mikveh in our Bibles. Turn to Genesis chapter 1. I'm telling you that mikveh is so important to the Old Covenant World - that mikveh was created in the week of Creation - in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis chapter 1, verse 10:

[10] And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

This is hugely important that we understand this. There is deep, very important spiritual implication here that we need to understand. The Hebrew word for the gathering together of the waters - is Mikveh. Now, what is really interesting about this, is if you look at the definition of the word here, you don't find much to do with physical H2O water. But, the english here absolutely leads us to believe we are supposed to understand this as water.

The gathering together of the waters He called the Seas.

That gives us every indication that we're are to understand this as H2O water. Yes. Physically - but also spiritually. The definition of miqve is:

hope

ground of hope

things hoped for, outcome

collection, collected mass

Strong's defines it as:

מִקְוֵה miqveh, mik-veh'; or

מִקְוֵה miqvêh; (1 Kings 10:28), mik-vay'; or

מִקְוֵה miqvê'; (2 Chronicles 1:16), mik-vay'; from H6960; something waited for, i.e.

confidence (objective or subjective); also a collection, i.e. (of water) a pond, or (of men and horses) a caravan or drove:—abiding, gathering together, hope, linen yarn, plenty [of water], pool.

Hope. Hope for the Living Water of the Messiah - established right here in the very first days of Creation. Water is the source of life. Without water, nothing lives. There should be no question as to why Christ is referred to as Living Water. So forget judaism altogether - we - as followers of Christ - can lay claim to miqve being the type and shadow of the Messiah King. The One Who offers water - that if a man drink from this water - he shall never thirst again.

The spiritual implications of Genesis 1:10 are awesome. But the jews say - and I will show you - because they are for all intents and purposes - the only religion out there that goes to great effort to show what H2O water baptism is supposed to look like. And they actually attempt to tie it to the Bible (the Jewish Bible and the Talmud) They say that the miqve - is the collected waters that God commanded to be used in the H2O water rituals of the Old Covenant method for purification from sin. And, they are right. Let me show you. Turn to Leviticus chapter 11. Running out of time, we'll have to hurry. Verse 1:

[1] And Yahweh spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying unto them,

[2] Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that are on the earth.

[3] Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.

[4] Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

Skip to verse 24. It isn't necessary this morning to see all the unclean animals we should not be eating.

[5] And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

[6] And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

[7] And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.

[8] Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.

[9] These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat.

[10] And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you:

[11] They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcases in abomination.

[12] Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that shall be an abomination unto you.

[13] And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,

[14] And the vulture, and the kite after his kind;

[15] Every raven after his kind;

[16] And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,

[17] And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl,

[18] And the swan, and the pelican, and the gier eagle,

[19] And the stork, the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.

[20] All fowls that creep, going upon all four, shall be an abomination unto you.

[21] Yet these may ye eat of every flying creeping thing that goeth upon all four,

which have legs above their feet, to leap withal upon the earth;

[22] Even these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind.

[23] But all other flying creeping things, which have four feet, shall be an abomination unto you.

[24] And for these ye shall be unclean: whosoever toucheth the carcase of them shall be unclean until the even.

[25] And whosoever beareth ought of the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.

[26] The carcasses of every beast which divideth the hoof, and is not clovenfooted, nor cheweth the cud, are unclean unto you: every one that toucheth them shall be unclean.

[27] And whatsoever goeth upon his paws, among all manner of beasts that go on all four, those are unclean unto you: whoso toucheth their carcase shall be unclean until the even.

[28] And he that beareth the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: they are unclean unto you.

[29] These also shall be unclean unto you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth; the weasel, and the mouse, and the tortoise after his kind,

[30] And the ferret, and the chameleon, and the lizard, and the snail, and the mole.

[31] These are unclean to you among all that creep: whosoever doth touch them, when they be dead, shall be unclean until the even.

[32] And upon whatsoever any of them, when they are dead, doth fall, it shall be unclean; whether it be any vessel of wood, or raiment, or skin, or sack, whatsoever vessel it be, wherein any work is done, it must be put into water, and it shall be unclean until the even; so it shall be cleansed.

Alright. Now again, **it must be put into water, so it shall be cleansed.** The H₂O water purification rituals - are all over the Law God gave to Moses. This is not just physical - and yes - without a doubt - it is physical - but it also has spiritual implications as well. It is the blood and the water - not just the blood. And here is an example where the purification takes place - apart from the blood. This is water only. Verse 33:

[33] And every earthen vessel, whereinto any of them falleth, whatsoever is in it shall be unclean; and ye shall break it.

[34] Of all meat which may be eaten, that on which such water cometh shall be

unclean: and all drink that may be drunk in every such vessel shall be unclean.
[35] And every thing whereupon any part of their carcase falleth shall be unclean; whether it be oven, or ranges for pots, they shall be broken down: for they are unclean, and shall be unclean unto you.

Now watch this.

[36] Nevertheless a fountain or pit, wherein there is plenty of water, shall be clean: but that which toucheth their carcase shall be unclean.

Nevertheless a fountain or pit, wherein there is plenty of water...

Plenty - plenty of water. The Hebrew word here is miqve. The pool where the cleansing water described here is held in Leviticus chapter 11 - is miqve.

Now quickly. I'll leave the rest of chapter 11 in the notes, but we need to move on. Mikveh in judaism.

[37] And if any part of their carcase fall upon any sowing seed which is to be sown, it shall be clean.

[38] But if any water be put upon the seed, and any part of their carcase fall thereon, it shall be unclean unto you.

[39] And if any beast, of which ye may eat, die; he that toucheth the carcase thereof shall be unclean until the even.

[40] And he that eateth of the carcase of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: he also that beareth the carcase of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.

[41] And every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth shall be an abomination; it shall not be eaten.

[42] Whatsoever goeth upon the belly, and whatsoever goeth upon all four, or whatsoever hath more feet among all creeping things that creep upon the earth, them ye shall not eat; for they are an abomination.

[43] Ye shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creepeth, neither shall ye make yourselves unclean with them, that ye should be defiled thereby.

[44] For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

[45] For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

[46] This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth:

[47] To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

The following is taken from the jewish website, haaretz.com. There is an article called "Why Jews Immerse in the Mikveh."

Quote:

In Judaism, immersion in a mikveh is meant to be more than simply a device for reversing a state of impurity. It is a means of infusing the soul with spirituality.

The human body, according to Judaism, can attain lower or higher states of spiritual purity, and a Jewish man or woman should always seek to elevate that level. One means of doing so is through full-body immersion in water.

One need only take a glance at certain chapters of the Bible to see that many of the commandments prescribe a specific cure for impurity: " he/she should immerse himself/herself/his garments in water, and he/she/it will remain impure until the evening." This formula is reiterated dozens of times in the Torah.

Now listen to this. This is very important - from their own mouths they say this:

Initially, the Israelites were told to immerse in water, and in some cases, in "living water." The rabbis of the late Hellenistic period (circa 1st century BCE) sought to institute norms for this purification rite. They defined "living water" as any permanent body of water, such as ocean, lake, river or stream, but a cistern directly fed by rainwater was also deemed acceptable. A mikveh – literally "collection" – that contains piped-in water is unfit for use.

Who is supposed to use the mikveh? In the days when the Temple still existed, this water purification rite was mainly used for eradicating the "death impurity": if you had touched a corpse, or touched someone who had touched a corpse, there was a set procedure for purification. But in post-Temple times, there is no way to do so. Similarly, pilgrims to Jerusalem used to engage in the ritual immersion before walking up to the

Temple. Without a Temple, this, too, has become anachronistic.

I am going to skip this next paragraph, but will leave it the notes. It has to do with private female issues.

Nowadays, the main clientele for mikveh immersion are Orthodox or Conservative women who take a monthly dip following the end of their menstruation in accordance with the laws of “family purity,” as set down in the Talmudic tractate Niddah. The same applies for women who have given birth.

Most Jewish brides attend the mikveh on the eve of their wedding; in Sephardic circles in particular, this is often the occasion for a women’s party in honor of the bride.

Men also attend the mikveh – some Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox Jewish men go after having sexual relations, or even every Friday before Sabbath.

Immersion in a mikveh involves much more than attaining physical cleanliness. An individual must be entirely naked; even rings and earrings must be removed. Immersion must be full-body. Once completed, the proper blessing must be recited, with intent.

I want you to remember why I'm reading this to you. I said that no “church religion” that follows a “Jesus” describes in detail what the immersion or baptism ritual is supposed to look like. All they can do is pass on the particular tradition of their “church.” They cannot take chapter and verse from the Bible and show what the H2O water immersion ritual looks like. Judaism is the only religion that goes into great detail as to what the ritual is supposed to look like. (Correction: There is another religion that goes into great detail - we'll get into that later).

This is meant to be more than simply a device for reversing a state of impurity. It is a means of infusing the soul with spirituality. It is no wonder that mikveh immersion is the final requisite for converting to Judaism – a spiritual rebirthing. This use of the mikveh, for the conversion of both men and women, is common to every religious movement in Judaism.

Interestingly, archaeologists have found almost no mikveh installations from the biblical period. Most of those that have been found in Israel date to the 1st century BCE and later.

Perhaps the highest incidence of mikvehs per capita was unearthed at Qumran along the shore of the Dead Sea, the assumed home base of the ascetic Essene sect of Judaism in the Roman era. Nine mikvehs were found at Qumran, which were meant to serve a population that historians estimate at no more than 200. The Essenes were incredibly stringent on matters of purity and impurity. According to the sect's literature (see the Dead Sea Scrolls), they would immerse twice daily.

The purist Essene sect may have had a profound effect on early Christianity and its own purification rites. Matthew 3 reports that John the Baptist was living an austere lifestyle in the Judean Desert near the Jordan River. John vilifies the Pharisees and Sadducees, and then baptizes Jesus and other Jews in the living waters of the Jordan. All of which indicates a smooth evolutionary transition from mikveh immersion in Judaism to baptism in early Christianity.

Given the primeval link between the basic elements of water, body and spirit, it is only natural that mystical Judaism latched onto the mikveh as a tool for spiritual expansion. The Kabbalah teaches that the living water can remove forces of negativity in the individual. The kabbalists of Tzfat would frequently immerse themselves in the cold spring waters of Rabbi Issac Luria's mikveh as part of a meditative regimen, a practice that continues to this day.

The Talmud lists ten institutions that every good-sized Jewish community needs to have, such as synagogue, ritual slaughterer and mikveh. The latter is of primary importance, so much so that the rabbis decreed that a community should even sell its synagogue building in order to finance the construction of a mikveh. End quote.

There is so much more to discuss on miqve and that is the plan as we continue.

I have told you in the past that "church" is nothing but something that was changed from synagogue, to something more palatable to the "churchians." Church is veiled judaism. With all its rituals, with its denial of God's definitions of good and evil, with its insistence that the Messiah is yet to come. With its sacraments and sacerdotal duties. For goodness sake, "churches" have altars. They have altars, people. And today, their baptistries - which of course - they would never call mikvehs - of course they wouldn't - the "churches" today have probably never even heard the word mikveh - but they continue the practice of water immersion for the purification from sin.

Looking back on what took place between James and Paul in Acts 21. James was

compelling Paul to walk according to the Law God gave Moses - to go and baptize himself - then go into the temple and sacrifice animals.

Who was right? James was zealous of the Law God gave to Moses. Yes, in the Last Days, in the end of the Old Covenant World, there was nothing wrong with James commanding Paul to walk orderly and according to the Law.

But friends, when that temple came down, when that worldly sanctuary came down at AD70 - so did ALL the rituals - the rituals pertaining to meats and drinks, the rituals pertaining to all the different baptisms - they all came down.