

Various Baptisms Compared

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<i>Type of Baptism</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Relevant Verse/s</i>
Baptism unto Moses	Not a baptism in water. Israelites identified with all that Moses stood for in law and ceremony. If one was identified with Moses, one was in union with God.	1 Cor 10:1-5; Exodus 13:20-22;14:15-31
OT Baptisms	Really ceremonial washings, and not “baptisms” in the sense of the definition given above (different Greek word used). Includes ideas of purification, washing away uncleanness and sin, etc. which carry over into other baptisms mentioned.	Hebrews 6:1,2; 9:8-10 Lev 4:3-6; 11:24-32; 14:1-20 Num 19:14,18
John’s baptism	A baptism in water: (1) Identification with a purification aspect. A signal of a person’s repentance, then subsequent, forgiveness; so that Israelites would be suitably prepared for the coming kingdom, and the nation’s role as priests to the other nations. (2) To reveal the Messiah to Israel, signalling nearness of the coming Messiah & Kingdom	Matthew 3:1-12 Exodus 29:1,4 Matt 3:16,17; John 1:29-51
Christ’s baptism in the Jordan	Baptism in water, signalling Christ’s identification with repentant Israel. Also served as the appropriate preparation for His role as High Priest. Christ’s baptism in the Jordan is not an example which is supposed to be followed by Christians today, because it is impossible for us to fulfil either of these roles.	Matthew 3:13-17 Heb 2:17; 3:1; 4:14,15 Ex 29:1,4-9; Heb 2:9-3:2
Christ: “a baptism I am to be baptized with”	Not a baptism in water, but Christ’s being overwhelmed by suffering, anguish, etc. up until the point of death. This act is central to many of God’s dealings.	Luke 12:50; Matt 20:20-23 Jonah 2:1-10 (cp Matt 12:38-41) Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Water Baptism in Acts	Similar to John’s Baptism. John’s baptism looked forward to the Messiah who was, at that time, yet to come; those baptized in the Acts period recognised that Jesus of Nazareth was that promised Messiah. Identification with a purification aspect. A signal of a person’s repentance, then subsequent, forgiveness; so that Israelites would be suitably prepared for the coming kingdom, and the nation’s role as priests to the other nations. Compulsory for Jewish believers, not compulsory for Gentile believers.	Mark 16:15-18; Acts 2:37,38; 22:16; Acts 18:24-19:7
Baptism with [the] Holy Spirit	The apostles were overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, Christ Himself being the Baptizer. Believing Jews and Gentiles – visible approval of God. Mighty works performed. Although there were occurrences of it in the Acts period, it will be fulfilled on a larger scale in the millennial kingdom – still future.	Matt 3:11 John 1:33; 16:7-15 Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4; Joel 2:28-32 Ezek 36:24-28; 39:28,29
Baptized unto Christ	Clothed with Christ, being identified with Him. He died, was raised, and shall appear in glory. We shall die, be raised, and shall appear in glory. Associated are ideas of walking appropriately, as those who have been given life. The “one” baptism which is in force today.	Rom 6:1-11 Gal 3:26-28 Col 2:12 Eph 4:5
Baptism with Fire	Still future, though glimpses of it in the Acts period. Christ Himself will be the Baptizer when He returns to the earth, executing judgement. Twofold aspect – burning up of waste, and purifying/purging what needs to be kept. Closely linked with the “pouring out” of the Holy Spirit at the same time.	Matt 3:5-12 Ps 97:1-5 Zech 13:8,9 1 Cor 3:11-15
Future baptism of Gentile nations	Still future, not carried out during Acts. When Christ returns, the nations will have to submit to Him, or suffer the consequences. Israel will be a nation of priests in their dealings with the Gentile nations. The nations, or their representatives, will need to be baptized in water.	Matt 28:18-20. 1 Peter 2:9 (Ex 19:5,6) Zech 2:10-13

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Baptize / Baptism

**Greek words used in the Scriptures
(NT and LXX)**

Basic words:

bapto (verb) / baptismos (noun)
– washing, ceremonial washing

Words with deeper significance attached:

baptizo (verb) / baptisma (noun)
– extended ideas about overwhelming,
encompassing, enduing,
identification, etc, are involved

Baptism – a general definition

The following can be applied in some way to all baptisms in the Bible...

Baptism has the idea of being:

encompassed

enveloped (as in a fog)

clothed

overwhelmed

surrounded by something etc.

Immersion in water could be involved, but not all baptisms involve water.

By extension, some baptisms in the Bible include:

- being immersed or washed in water, |
- endued with holy spirit (power from on high),
- identified with Moses and all he stood for,
- identified with Christ in His death and resurrection



The general sense behind the term “baptism”



Some specific ways that different baptisms in Scripture may vary