

# PREPARATION FOR THE MESSIAH

- **The ministry of John the Baptist**
- **The Lord's own baptism in the Jordan River**



## What is a “Gospel?”

**euaggelion: good news**

**Original Word:** εὐαγγέλιον, ου, τό

**Part of Speech:** Noun, Neuter

**Transliteration:** euaggelion

**Phonetic Spelling:** (yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on)

*eu* = “good”

εὐ|αγγέλιον  
euaggelion

*aggel* = “message”

*euaggelion* =  
“good message”  
(good news)

*Genesis 12:2,3*

"I will make you into  
a great nation (Israel)

-  
... all peoples on earth  
will be blessed  
through you."

Exodus 19:6 - you shall be to Me  
a kingdom of priests and a holy  
nation.

1 Peter 2:9 - you are a chosen  
generation, a royal priesthood, a  
holy nation, His own special  
people



# Christ / Messiah

- **What was the promised Messiah to do?**

Several tasks, purposes and roles, including ...

- **Perform miracles, wonders and signs**

*(Isaiah 35:4-6; Matthew 12:22,23; 11:1-6; Acts 2:21,36)*

- **Establish a rejuvenated (restored) kingdom of Israel**

*(Isaiah 35:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Exodus 19:5,6; 1 Peter 2:9,10; Revelation 5:9,10)*

Hence the call to “Repent”, to live appropriately as God’s nation of priests to the other nations, before the Messiah’s advent. *(Matthew 3:1,2,8-10; Matthew 4:17,23; Acts 3:19; Luke 3:3, 10-14)*

- **Live in Israel’s midst as king**

- over Israel *(Matthew 2:2; 27:11; John 1:49)*

- over all nations *(Revelation 11:15; 19:11-16)*

- **Be a Saviour**

- save Israel from her enemies *(Zechariah 12:8,9; 14:1-4,11,12)*

- save Israel from her sins, on a national level *(Isaiah 64:5b-9; Matthew 1:21; see also Isaiah 53:5,11,12)*

Individual Israelites and Gentiles may also be saved from eternal death and separation from God. *(Colossians 3:11)*

**“All day long I have stretched out My hands  
to a disobedient and contrary people.”**

*Romans 10:21*

Throughout the ages, God has stretched out His hands to mankind and ultimately, the vast majority of mankind rejects God, His Word and His ways. He has been gracious enough to give us every opportunity to believe Him and draw near to Him, under different dispensations with varying sets of conditions – all generally rejected by mankind.



# Why did John baptise?

Referred to as “John’s baptism” (Matt 21:25,26; Acts 19:3,4) i.e., the baptism carried out by John the Baptist.

## **1. John baptised in order to reveal the identity of the Messiah, i.e “Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah”.**

(Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:31-34)

## **2. Israelites were baptised by John as a formal outward sign of their repentance, and for the forgiveness of their sins.**

- Specifically for Israelites (Acts 13:23-25)
- Some responded to the call to repent, and some didn't (Luke 7:28-30)
- Israel's repentance as a nation was a major prerequisite for her blessing  
(Deuteronomy 30:1-5; cp. Genesis 12:1-3 & Exodus 19:5,6; 1 Peter 2:9)
- This ritual was part of the preparation for Israel to become the nation of priests it was meant to be.
  - Note the connection to the priesthood, washings, purification rites, etc. John 3:23-25; Hebrews 6:1-3
  - Note the “priestly” preparation order of washing and subsequent anointment with oil
    - for priests (Exodus 29:1,4,7)
    - for the Christ (Matthew 3:13-17)
    - for Israelite believers after Christ's resurrection (Acts 2:38)

## **3. John's baptism, and all that it implied, was an appropriate preparation for the coming kingdom, identifying them with the Christ and repentant Israel.**



# Question: Why was Christ baptized in the Jordan River?

**Answer: “to fulfil all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15)**

i.e. this action was one of the “right” and necessary steps of Christ’s earthly ministry that needed to be undertaken

## **What did it achieve?**

- He was made manifest to Israel (by John)
- He was symbolically prepared for His role as High Priest
- This action connected Him with the repentant, redeemed portion of Israel



## **What Christ’s baptism was not ....**

- **It was not about forgiveness of sins.**  
(He had no sin or sins to be forgiven)
- **It was not to be used as an example for Christians down the centuries to follow.**  
(Christians cannot fulfil the roles Christ played as High Priest or Messiah)



## **Water & Holy Spirit** ... and their connection to **Priesthood** in God's dealings with Israel and mankind.

- The Israelite priesthood – Exodus 29:1, 4, 7
- The Lord's earthly ministry – Acts 10:36-38
- The Lord's words to Nicodemus – John 3:3-7  
(born again – cp 1 Corinthians 15:50-54)
- Peter's words on the Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:38
- Believers of the Acts Period – 1 Corinthians 6:11  
Hebrews 6:1-6
- Christ as High priest (Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14,15)
- Israel as a nation of priests (Exodus 19:5,6; 1 Peter 2:9)
- The future millennial kingdom – Ezekiel 36:24-29

### **In sequence ...**

(1)  
**Washing in Water,**  
for literal and  
symbolic cleansing  
and purification;

(2)  
**God's Spirit is**  
poured upon  
people, enabling His  
will and work to be  
carried out;

(3)  
**The ministry of**  
**Priesthood begins**  
and is carried out.



## Mikvah / Ritual Baths

The word “mikvah” (also, mikveh, mikva, miqve) means “collection” and refers to a collection of water that was used by the Jews for ceremonial washing. They are ritual baths. The Jews would purify themselves before several activities or after certain events that made them unclean.

A first century mikvah used during the days of Jesus and the book of Acts, located south of the Temple Mount at the base of the Double Gate stairs.

This could easily have been one of the many mikvah used to baptize some of the 3,000 new Jewish believers on the Day of Pentecost as described in Acts 2.

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Source: <https://www.generationword.com/jerusalem101/39-mikvah-ritual-baths.html>