

**HOPE OF  
ISRAEL  
MINISTRIES**

# **BIBLE**

**CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**

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“Baptizing” an Infant

**Avoid a Counterfeit Baptism!**

**Lesson 28**

## **An Open Letter from the Staff...**

DID YOU KNOW that most churches today do NOT baptize their members the way the Messiah commanded?

The churches of this world are in utter confusion regarding baptism. Most are actually employing COUNTERFEIT FORMS of “baptism” in place of the ONE TRUE BAPTISM commanded in the Bible!

Several conflicting doctrines of “baptism” are being taught and practiced today by professing Christianity.

Some denominations practice INFANT BAPTISM. They sincerely believe infants are eternally doomed if they die unbaptized.

Then there are those who will baptize you “into the church” -- their religious sect, or denomination -- instead of “into Christ.”

Other sects believe one must receive an ADDITIONAL “BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT” after he has ALREADY received the “spirit.” It is claimed that the only evidence proving one has received this special “baptism” is that of speaking in “tongues” -- the so-called “power to witness for Christ.” BUT IS THIS WHAT YOUR BIBLE SAYS?

Another religious movement insists that you must receive the “BAPTISM BY FIRE” in order to be “saved.” Do you want it?

One church even teaches its members to be BAPTIZED ON BEHALF OF their dead FRIENDS AND RELATIVES who died unconverted!

What about footwashing? Is this only done during the Passover service, or does it have a greater application?

How often should true Christians wash one another’s feet? Or, is this just figurative language Yeshua used to teach us a lesson to always remain in a humble attitude?

ARE these ideas and practices REALLY scriptural? Or are they merely the INVENTIONS -- the doctrines and commandments -- of MEN?

Let’s learn the TRUTH from the Bible!



## **HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 28**

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**EDITOR AND DIRECTOR**  
John D. Keyser

**TECHNICAL ADVISOR**  
Sean C. Keyser

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ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor at the following address:

**Hope of Israel Ministries**, P.O. Box 2186,  
Temple City, California 91780, U.S.A.

## **About Our Cover...**

Thousands of little infants are similarly “baptized” in the churches of this world every week. Did Yeshua and his apostles practice “infant baptism”? Does the Bible even ALLUDE to it? This lesson reveals the truth regarding infants and the PROPER TIME to be baptized. It lays bare the conflicting doctrines of “baptism” taught in today’s Christian-professing world!

## Avoid a Counterfeit Baptism!

### Before You Begin

This lesson is intended to direct you to YOUR BIBLE. Here is the method of study:

Remember -- you are to open your Bible to every passage. Never say to yourself, "Oh, I think I know what the verse is referring to" -- and then pass over the scripture. Don't forget that this is a BIBLE STUDY course -- not just a study of the lessons we send you. You need to "KEEP YOUR NOSE IN THE BIBLE," so to speak. You should read AND reread and STUDY each passage referred to in this lesson. MEDITATE on the new knowledge you will learn, especially within the following twenty-four hours, and in your time of prayer -- SO YOU WON'T FORGET IT! Make YEHOVAH's Word A PART OF YOU!

Here is the method of taking effective notes: Write down neatly on your paper the title of the lesson and underscore it. Next write down the lesson number. Then as you come to each question section, write down its heading. Then, underneath, number each question as you come to it. FOR EACH question write down the answer from your Bible, together with any pertinent ideas that come to your mind.

Writing down every word of each Bible passage, and any comments you wish to make as you go along, will aid you greatly in REVIEWING and remembering later on. Be SURE TO STUDY the scripture which answers each question, if you have not done so with previous lessons.

This lesson, like all others, is extremely important to you. Have you PRAYED to YEHOVAH God for understanding? If not, go now to a private place, kneel down, and ask Him for spiritual UNDERSTANDING and wisdom. Ask YEHOVAH to HELP YOU grasp and APPLY the knowledge this lesson will reveal to you in the Bible!

And now for the lesson itself.

### Lesson 28

#### Origin of Infant Baptism

Where did the practice of infant baptism originate? Was it commanded by YEHOVAH God? Or is it a "commandment" of MEN? Let us examine HISTORY and learn the TRUTH!

The common practice of infant baptism gradually evolved from the false pagan concept that all are born with the inherent sin ("original sin") of Adam, and unless baptized, the individual is eternally lost because of Adam's sin.

Infant baptism actually makes YEHOVAH God appear as unfair because it implies that sin and the resultant death penalty are due to ONE MAN AND WOMAN -- Adam and Eve -- and have been passed on to all their descendants. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!

Through Adam "sin ENTERED into the world" because Adam was the FIRST MAN to sin. But the death penalty has come on everyone because "ALL have sinned" (**Romans 5:12**).

In his *History of the Christian Church*, the church historian Neander accounts for the early introduction of infant baptism as follows:

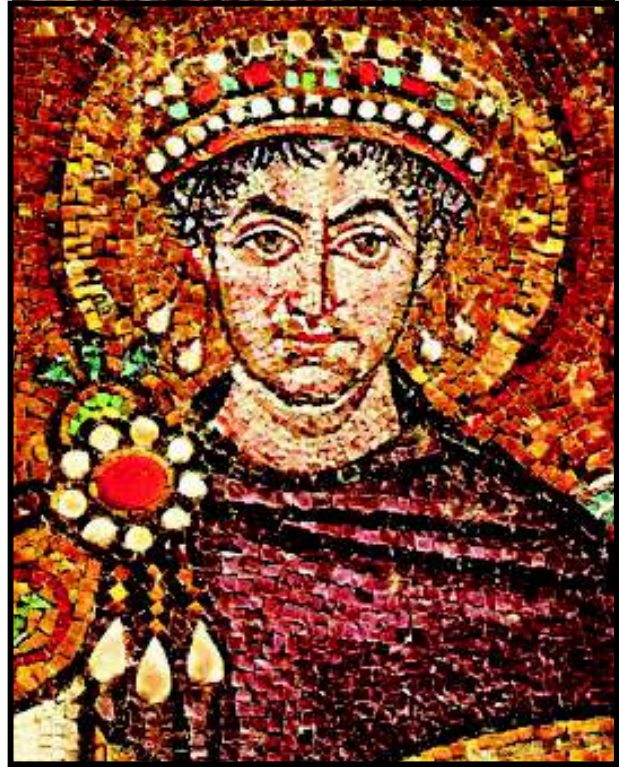
"...from the want of duly distinguishing between what is outward and what is inward in baptism -- the baptism by water, and the baptism by the Spirit -- the opinion (of the Roman Church) became more fully established, that without external baptism no one could be delivered from that inherent guilt ("original sin"), or could be saved from the everlasting punishment that threatened him, or raised to eternal life; and when the notion of MAGICAL INFLUENCE, a CHARM connected with the SACRAMENTS, continually gained ground, the theory was finally evolved of the unconditional

necessity of INFANT BAPTISM. About the middle of the third century this theory was generally admitted in the North AFRICAN Church...but while in theory the necessity of infant baptism was admitted, still in practice it was very far from being generally prevailing." (Vol. 1, pp. 313-14 -- Torrey's Translation.)

MANY OF THE "FATHERS" OF THE EARLY ROMAN CHURCH, who believed in various pagan traditions and beliefs, PROMOTED THIS PAGAN THEORY OF INFANT BAPTISM! Among them were Origen, Chrysostom, Clement of Alexandria, Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage in North Africa, and Augustine, who was its chief defender and promoter. The Messiah and the apostles never baptized infants. It is a pagan idea spawned by carnal men!

Rheinwald, in *The Christian Review*, says: "Though its (infant baptism) necessity was asserted in Africa and Egypt in the beginning of the 3rd century, it was, even to the end of the 4th century, by no means universally observed -- least of all in the Eastern Church. Notwithstanding the recommendation of it by the fathers, it had never become a general ecclesiastical institution until the age of Augustine" (Vol. 3, p.

**Stained-glass window of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo. He was one of the many "fathers" of the early Roman Church who promoted the doctrine of infant baptism.**



**Mosaic of Emperor Justinian the Great of the Eastern Roman Empire. He made infant baptism compulsory in the sixth century.**

193).

It was not until the 6th CENTURY that infant baptism became a universal practice.

"The administration of baptism to infants was subsequently rendered compulsory by an edict of Emperor Justinian, who reigned over the Eastern Roman Empire from A.D. 527 to A.D. 565. He enacted 'that such pagans as were yet unbaptized, should present themselves, with their wives and children, and all that appertained to them, in the church; and THERE THEY SHOULD CAUSE THEIR LITTLE ONES IMMEDIATELY TO BE BAPTIZED.' " (*Cole's Archaeology of Baptism*, p. 120.)

The evidence of recorded history alone proves that infant baptism is merely a doctrine of men which was

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inspired by pagan Egyptian beliefs and practices!

### Why Infant Baptism Is Not Commanded

It is actually a mockery of YEHOVAH's Word to submit newly born infants to water baptism. Infants cannot even begin to think for themselves, let alone REPENT OR BELIEVE!

YEHOVAH God reveals in His divine Word that before one may be baptized, he must fully repent of having broken YEHOVAH's laws. He must thoroughly ABHOR, be sorry for, his past sinful life! Then he must BELIEVE the true GOSPEL of the KINGDOM OF YEHOVAH GOD and believe on Yeshua the Messiah as his personal Saviour. Even older children have not reached the maturity and stability of judgment where they have the self-discipline to fully repent, and believe. The average mind does not mature until about age 25 -- though there are exceptions. Only a very few mature and become sober and serious in outlook by age 16.

An immature mind may experience an emotional feeling of TEMPORARY remorse. This may often be falsely construed as repentance, when it is only momentary, and soon forgotten. It is much like "puppy love." How many youngsters, 13 to 18, have a number of temporary emotional experiences of feeling sure they are "in love" and cannot be talked out of it. They usually grow out of it, but in rare cases, of course, they may really "know their minds" -- though this is the rare EXCEPTION, and NOT the rule. So it is with repentance and belief.

The immature child baptized around age 12 to 15 may be ever so serious about it at the time. But when the child reaches the age between 16 and 20, he or she comes under "teenage" influences which are quite different today than one or two generations ago. The young adult must meet many temptations

characteristic of energetic, dynamic, reckless, excitement-craving youth in the blossoming flower of sex appeal. Experience shows that perhaps not one in a hundred can be truly "converted" prior to this age and still remain converted and constantly growing spiritually closer and closer to the Messiah and YEHOVAH's Kingdom through these trying years.



**These children, about to be baptized in Tennessee, are not ready for baptism. Repentance and baptism require a mature mind!**

Some present the argument that the infants and older children of Cornelius' household were baptized by Peter (**Acts 10**). This is merely an ASSUMPTION. The Scriptures nowhere indicate whether or not Cornelius' "household" included any children under adult age. Those baptized in Cornelius' house must have been MATURE ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND the conditions of salvation and able to truly repent and believe! Children, if any were present, would NOT have been baptized. The same explanation applies to the baptism of the Philippian jailor's "household" (**Acts 16:31-33**)

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### The Messiah's Example

The Messiah set us the example of what we should do regarding infants and little children. Notice what he did!

1. Did the Messiah baptize infants and young children -- or did he, instead, pronounce BLESSINGS upon them? **Matthew 19:13** and **Mark 10:13-16**.

**COMMENT:** Yeshua did not baptize children! And his early Apostolic Ecclesia did not perform such baptisms either! Nowhere in the Bible is there an example or command for this practice.

YESHUA BLESSED LITTLE CHILDREN BY LAYING HIS HANDS ON THEM AND PRAYING FOR THEM. He undoubtedly prayed to his Father in Heaven for divine protection and guidance of their young lives, and that the parents who brought these children to him would be given wisdom to properly train them in the ways of YEHOVAH God.

This is the Messiah's own example for the ministers of his true Ecclesia. Today, YEHOVAH's ministers DO invoke this same blessing upon infants.

Now let's understand what YEHOVAH God expects from Christian parents and their children.

2. Does YEHOVAH God command parents to teach their children obedience to His laws? **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** and **Ephesians 6:4**.

3. Are children also commanded to obey and honor their parents? **Proverbs 1:8**, **Exodus 20:12** and **Ephesians 6:1-3**. Should they obey in everything? **Colossians 3:20**.

4. As a child, did Yeshua also set the example of perfect obedience to his parents for all children to imitate? **Luke 2:51**.

**COMMENT:** Jesus obeyed his parents in all things, as well as the One who was to become his Heavenly Father! He was "subject" or obedient to their wishes.

5. Should children who disobey -- sin against -- their parents, be chastised and corrected? **Proverbs 19:18** and **22:15**. Is this

chastisement to be administered in love? **Proverbs 3:12** and **Hebrews 12:5-7**.

**COMMENT:** Contrary to the diabolical teachings of modern child psychologists, YEHOVAH God commands physical punishment for disobedient children. (This truth is made plain in our free article on "Child Rearing." Write for it.) YEHOVAH God punishes His spiritual sons in real Godly love and consideration for their welfare to teach them lessons. Likewise, parents are not to punish their children in hate, but in the love of YEHOVAH God explaining that they are being punished because they have done wrong! This point is so important it cannot be overstressed. Punishment must be in LOVE -- but with authority! This is the only way to instill obedience in a child.

6. If children are properly taught the ways of YEHOVAH God and are punished in love, will they depart from Him and His laws when they are older -- when MATURE in mind? **Proverbs 22:6**. Do we find a good example of such an individual? **II Timothy 3:15**.

**COMMENT:** Even though Timothy's parents had only the Old Testament scriptures, they properly trained him during his childhood. He did not depart from YEHOVAH God when he grew older, but continued with such fervency in the ways of YEHOVAH, that he became converted and was later ordained as a minister in YEHOVAH's Ecclesia!

Timothy's example shows that children, properly trained and instructed in the ways of YEHOVAH God, can come to real repentance and belief in the Messiah, when they become mature in mind. They will then, through personal conviction and by free choice, seek the ways of the Messiah and baptism in real sincerity from the heart!

### When to Be Baptized

How soon should we be baptized once we have truly repented of our sins? One or two religious groups insist that baptism should be put off until the candidate has "proved he HAS the

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holy spirit and IS living a righteous, spiritual life" -- or has come to a "certain SPIRITUAL knowledge."

This definitely is NOT what YEHOVAH God commands! Notice the teaching of the Apostle Paul:

Paul says YEHOVAH's "law is SPIRITUAL," and that the carnal -- unconverted -- natural mind is not subject to YEHOVAH's law (**Romans 7:14 and 8:7**). This plainly says it is impossible to truly understand and follow the spiritual application of YEHOVAH's law until one has repented and received the holy spirit of YEHOVAH God.

Yet these sects demand that one must be doing both of these things which YEHOVAH GOD says are impossible, before they will baptize him! It's amazing how far man can TWIST the clear teachings of the Bible!

Another sect will not baptize an individual until he comes to "see" and accept "God's law" as interpreted by its doctrines. Then he is placed on six months' probation to "see if he is really WORTHY of baptism."

This is utter nonsense!

The command of YEHOVAH God is (1) preach the gospel. This leads to the conviction of those called by YEHOVAH, of the sins they have committed -- which, in turn, leads to repentance and faith in the Messiah; (2) baptism; and (3) then they shall receive the HOLY SPIRIT, WHICH renews their minds and TEACHES THEM BY HELPING THEM TO UNDERSTAND SPIRITUAL TRUTH which was IMPOSSIBLE for their carnal minds to comprehend BEFORE!

So, here we have two different sects -- the first demanding of those desiring baptism that they ALREADY be KEEPING the SPIRITUAL Law of YEHOVAH God, before they will baptize them so they can receive the spirit. And the second demanding that those desiring to be baptized ALREADY UNDERSTAND the SPIRITUAL Law of YEHOVAH God before they can receive the spirit.

What spiritual blindness!

Then just what DOES YEHOVAH God demand BEFORE baptism? A COMPLETELY SURRENDERED AND REPENTANT ATTITUDE! THAT'S ALL HE WANTS!!

Everyone knows he himself has sinned, and lived contrary to YEHOVAH's will, though he may not have spiritual understanding of YEHOVAH's will. YEHOVAH will grant REPENTANCE to a carnal mind before the actual conversion of that mind by the holy spirit. One does not need a college education in Bible KNOWLEDGE in order to know how to repent and be baptized into the Messiah. Yeshua instructed his apostles to preach the Gospel, BAPTIZE repentant believers, and THEN TEACH them the COMMANDMENTS (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

Notice now the crystal-clear teaching of the New Testament:

1. On the day of Pentecost, did the repentant believers have to put off their baptisms for some reason, or were they all baptized that SAME day? **Acts 2:41**.

2. Did Philip baptize the believing Ethiopian eunuch at once? **Acts 8:35-38**.

3. Was the Apostle Paul -- formerly known as Saul -- baptized only a short while after the resurrected Messiah convicted him of his sins? **Acts 9:8-9, 18**.

4. When did Paul baptize the Philippian jailor and those of his REPENTANT household? **Acts 16:25, 30-33**.

**COMMENT:** Notice that they were baptized the same hour after midnight! They did not even wait until daylight! Baptism should never be delayed without reason. It might be neglected until too late! In every case recounted in the New Testament, repentant believers were baptized almost immediately.

But what about those who are not able to be baptized for reasons completely beyond their control?

The simple Bible answer is that water baptism is not the thing that saves us from the death penalty, makes us righteous, or imparts eternal life. While YEHOVAH God commands

it "for the remission of sins," yet it is merely SYMBOLIC of that which remits our sins -- the DEATH of Yeshua the Messiah. While it also pictures his resurrection, by which we ourselves are finally saved, it is merely the SYMBOL, not the reality. Therefore, YEHOVAH makes allowances for cases of individuals ABSOLUTELY NOT ABLE TO BE BAPTIZED. YOU need not worry about anyone UTTERLY UNABLE to be baptized.

BUT YEHOVAH God does command water baptism for the one who is able. If one defies the command and refuses, or neglects, or even puts off obedience to this command until too late, it certainly would be an act of disobedience which would impose the penalty of sin, and could cause the loss of salvation!

When necessity prevents your immediate baptism, or when circumstances are completely beyond your control, YEHOVAH will understand and make allowances.

### **The "No Works" Baptism**

Baptism in most of the churches today -- whether done by immersion or not -- is looked upon as merely a ritual or initiation into a church organization, instead of a burial of the old sinful life and the beginning of a new way of life.

The majority of people have grown up in, been baptized into, and attended some church or another. They hate to think, let alone admit, that they have never really been converted. Human nature impels them to stubbornly maintain their OWN righteousness.

Most "baptized" church-going "Christians" of this world never really knew what to repent of. At the time of their "baptism" they intended to "do better" or to "make their peace with YEHOVAH God." But their "ministers" never revealed YEHOVAH's definition of sin to them -- what they must repent of! Consequently, their baptisms have been nothing more than mechanical rituals or initiations into church organizations -- mere dunkings! For since they have never been taught YEHOVAH's definition

of sin, they have failed completely to realize what rotten and sinful lives they have led.

These individuals HAVEN'T REALLY REPENTED. They have never been broken up about the wretched state of their lives. And they have not detested and utterly abhorred their own vanity and selfishness.

Such people don't immediately begin to study and understand the Bible after baptism. They just continue to go along with the customs, the ways, and the TRADITIONS OF THIS WORLD. Their lives are not ACTUALLY changed. They don't come to know YEHOVAH God personally. And they continue in most of their sins!

Their carnal, natural mind will not take correction from the commandments of YEHOVAH God "Because the carnal mind IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD" (**Romans 8:7**). This is why the "No Works" baptism persists.

Baptism is a vital step on the road to real conversion, and it must be done YEHOVAH's way, and after TRUE REPENTANCE!

The sad truth is that most "professing Christians" -- and this may include you -- have not repented and been baptized properly, and have NEVER RECEIVED THE holy spirit! They haven't even begun to get ready to start on the road to real conversion! (**Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:13.**)

Perhaps you have been immersed and are wondering if your previous baptism was valid. Ask yourself why you were baptized in the first place. Were you baptized simply because many of the members of your family were baptized and you felt "looked-down-upon," or had that "left-out feeling"? Did you stand in the water and go through the ordinance of baptism simply to "join" the group with whom you had been fellowshiping? Were you baptized because you temporarily thought it was "right."

**Write for:**

**A New Look at Baptism**

**Avoid a Counterfeit Baptism!**



**Revival meetings often lead many to be baptized “into” the sponsoring church. But how many are taught the Bible definition of sin -- what they must repent of -- before baptism?**

If you were baptized for any of these reasons -- your baptism was not valid **BECAUSE YOUR MOTIVES WERE NOT RIGHT!** YOU need to counsel with a true minister of YEHOVAH God as soon as possible to be **ABSOLUTELY SURE** about your previous baptism!

### **“Tongues” and “Tarry Meetings”**

Is speaking in “tongues” a **PROOF** of having received the priceless gift of YEHOVAH’s holy spirit? Many claim it is. Let’s notice what these people believe about this grossly misunderstood subject.

There is a modern religious movement which **ERRONEOUSLY BELIEVES** that Peter, James, John, and the other apostles were all converted and had received the holy spirit either when first called by the Messiah, or while he was yet alive. Then, having **ALREADY** received the holy spirit **BEFORE** the Messiah’s ascension, his disciples, so they erroneously believe, had to “tarry,” and “pray down Pentecost,” until, finally on Pentecost, they “got their **BAPTISM**” -- a

**SPECIAL** dispensation of spirit power -- and consequently spoke in **UNKNOWN** tongues.

Based on this assumption, they say that one first “joins” their church by “repenting of his sins” and being baptized by immersion, after which he immediately receives the “Holy Spirit.” **(BUT WHAT CONSTITUTES REAL SIN AND REAL REPENTANCE THEY DO NOT KNOW. THIS IGNORANCE VOIDS ANY POSSIBILITY OF THEIR RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT OF YEHOVAH GOD!)**

And they go on to erroneously teach that some time afterward, one so baptized, if he “seeks” it diligently enough in a “tarry meeting,” may receive “**THE Baptism**” -- a special endowment of “Spirit power” which is supposed to be **AN ENTIRELY SEPARATE AND LATER SPECIAL ACT OR BLESSING FROM YEHOVAH GOD.**

The teaching is that when one receives this latter “baptism,” he always “speaks in unknown tongues” -- that is, “unknown” languages. Often thrills and sensations are felt surging in overpowering waves through the body. From that time all timidity and bashfulness in “witnessing for Christ” is gone. The tongue is loosened. The recipient now boldly and loudly testifies in open meeting. Often in a jazzy manner and with a fluency and flippancy of “speech” never before possible!

What is this strange phenomenon? Is it from YEHOVAH God? Is it used according to **HIS** purpose? Or -- is this “unknown” speech from some **OTHER** source? Here’s the **TRUTH** from YEHOVAH’s own inspired Word.

**1.** Does the Bible really teach anything about speaking in “unknown” tongues as these “tongues-seekers” **ASSUME? I Corinthians 14:2.**

**COMMENT:** A vital key to our understanding is that the word “unknown” has wrongly been added by the translators of the

**Avoid a Counterfeit Baptism!**

King James Version. You'll notice that this word appears six times in **I Corinthians 14** and that it always is in ITALICS when used in connection with "tongues." Whenever the translators inserted additional words which THEY THOUGHT would make the intended meaning of the Scriptures clearer, they ITALICIZED them so the reader would know that they were NOT A PART of the literal word-for-word translation. Most of the time these additional italicized words do help in making the meaning clearer, but in this case, the use of "unknown" is absolutely misleading!

2. Is the ability to speak in "tongues" -- one or more known foreign languages -- a special gift YEHOVAH God might bestow upon some Christians, especially ministers, through the power of His holy spirit? **I Corinthians 12:1, 10-11.**

**COMMENT:** Remember that in the New Testament, the original inspired Greek word that was translated into the English language as "tongues," is "glossa". This word means "languages" -- known tongues! If a "language" were UNKNOWN it would be nothing but a NOISE!

3. On the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., did YEHOVAH God bestow this special gift of languages upon the disciples at the same instant they received the holy spirit? **Acts 2:4.** Was this gift given so all the people could understand them? **Verses 5-8.** Wasn't THIS then YEHOVAH's specific purpose for giving the disciples the gift of tongues? **Verse 11.**

**COMMENT:** Remember, the apostles did not receive the holy spirit until the day of Pentecost -- AFTER the Messiah's ascension to heaven -- NOT before. They were given the gift of other languages, not as evidence of having the spirit, but to enable them to be understood by Judeans of the diaspora -- the dispersion.

On that day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., there were Judeans from many FOREIGN countries gathered in Jerusalem. Therefore, it was necessary for YEHOVAH God to bestow the gift of VARIOUS languages upon the disciples in

order that they could make known to these people the Gospel -- the good news of the Messiah's sacrifice for their sins, his resurrection and future appearance as YEHOVAH's High Priest and king on this earth! Notice carefully that there was a SPECIFIC PURPOSE for this gift of languages. And NOWHERE do we find even the remotest indication of UNKNOWN -- unintelligible -- "languages" being spoken by the disciples!

4. Did YEHOVAH later bestow the gift of speaking in foreign languages upon certain other spirit-filled individuals in His true Ecclesia? **I Corinthians 14:12, 26.** Why?

**COMMENT:** The Ecclesia at Corinth was a Gentile Ecclesia composed of many individuals from different FOREIGN countries. YEHOVAH, therefore, gave certain ones in His Ecclesia the gift of speaking the languages of these people so they could UNDERSTAND YEHOVAH's Word more clearly and be EDIFIED -- be strengthened and built up more perfectly in the grace and knowledge of YEHOVAH God.

Notice especially that YEHOVAH gives spiritual gifts ONLY when they can serve a SPECIFIC NEED in the Ecclesia!

5. Did Paul encourage the Corinthians to desire the spiritual gift of "prophesying," RATHER than the gift of tongues? **I Corinthians 14:1-5.**

**COMMENT:** "Prophesying," in this instance, refers to INSPIRED PREACHING. Paul said that inspired preaching is a far greater gift than speaking in TONGUES -- various foreign languages! But if one did receive the gift of speaking in a foreign language, and spoke to a certain nationality in the Ecclesia, he was to interpret or have an INTERPRETER convey the MEANING OF HIS WORDS to the rest of the congregation that would not have been able to understand him (**I Corinthians 14:5, 13, 27**). Or else he was to KEEP SILENCE! (**Verse 28**.)

6. Is the gift of languages the LAST one of a list of gifts mentioned by Paul? **I**

**Corinthians 12:10, 28.** Doesn't this indicate it is the LEAST gift of the holy spirit?

### A Typical Tarry Meeting

1. Are those who receive YEHOUVAH's spiritual gifts, such as tongues, capable of controlling these gifts in an intelligent and sane manner? **I Corinthians 14:32-33.** (The word "spirits" here is used in the sense of SPIRITUAL GIFTS.)

**COMMENT:** This certainly is NOT the case at a "tarry meeting" in the churches of this "tongues movement"! Each "tongues-seeker" in such meetings repeats senseless phrases as "Glory! Glory!" OVER AND OVER AGAIN. Constantly they are urged to "say it a little FASTER." Variations of this phrase are "Hallelujah!" or "Praise you Jesus!" The seeker is told to keep it up FASTER AND FASTER and not to become discouraged.



"Speaking with tongues" has been practiced by certain church groups for decades. Now other church denominations are beginning to practice the utterance of unintelligible SOUNDS whose source practitioners say is YEHOUVAH God.

Sometimes they are told to lift their arms above their heads and HOLD them there. When they become so tired they are unable to hold them up any longer, others will come and

support their arms. All pray aloud at once, begging YEHOUVAH God to give them the "blessing." Hour after hour they continue to beg, plead, and agonize.

Occasionally, perhaps after many of these "tarry meetings," one or more at a meeting will begin to "speak in tongues," which is usually nothing but ridiculous babbling -- unintelligible gibberish! The individual falls backward and rolls upon the floor, ranting and raving and foaming at the mouth like a maniac. Nothing but utter confusion presides! YEHOUVAH says He is "not the author of confusion" (**I Corinthians 14:33**). If not, who is? Satan and his demons! And it is THEIR tongues that many "tongues-seekers" speak in!

2. Are "tongues" therefore the main evidence of one's having received the baptism of the holy spirit? **I Corinthians 13:1.** "CHARITY" means love.

**COMMENT:** There is no statement or example in the scriptures that shows one must speak in tongues to prove he has received the holy spirit of YEHOUVAH God.

3. What conclusively proves that one has truly received the baptism of YEHOUVAH's holy spirit? **Matthew 7:20, Galatians 5:22-23** and **I John 3:24.**

**COMMENT:** The lives we live are the evidence of whether or not we have received the baptism of YEHOUVAH's holy spirit. Only the HOLY SPIRIT can produce the "fruits of the Spirit."

You need not plead and beg and agonize for YEHOUVAH God to give you this greatest of all gifts. YEHOUVAH needs no begging! The holy spirit is free -- and YEHOUVAH tells us in His Word He is more willing to give us this gift than we are to give bread to our hungry children! (**Luke 11:13.**)

**Avoid a Counterfeit Baptism!**



**“BAPTISM WITH FIRE”! --** Tinder-dry brush explodes into fury of flame during raging brush fire. Below, white-hot molten metal pours from open hearth furnace into ladle. Both vividly portray the “baptism by fire” which will utterly destroy the incorrigible wicked when parts of the earth’s crust will be purified by an all-consuming **MOLTEN** mass!



### The “Baptism With FIRE”

John the Baptist, speaking of the Messiah, said: “He...shall baptize you with the holy spirit, and with FIRE” (**Matthew 3:11**).

People just don’t understand what they’re asking for when they seek “the baptism with fire”! Let’s understand what John meant!

**1.** Just what did John the Baptist prophesy concerning “baptism with fire”? **Matthew 3:11.**

**2.** To whom was John speaking? **Matthew 3:5-6.** Are we to assume from this that all Jerusalem and all Judea, and all this region was righteous, or at least repentant and seeking salvation?

**COMMENT:** Not at all! The whole population came in great crowds to see John -- mostly out of **CURIOSITY!**

**3.** Did John baptize **ALL** of this group who came to him? **Matthew 3:7-8.** What is to be the ultimate fate of the “tree” -- one who has not truly repented and shown forth the “fruits” -- proof in the life he leads -- of true repentance? **Verse 10 and last word of verse 11.**

**COMMENT:** John was speaking to the **UNREPENTANT** hypocritical Pharisees and Sadducees whom he **REFUSED** to baptize, as well as those who did repent and whom he **BAPTIZED**. So notice carefully that **SOME** of those there to whom John spoke -- the repentant -- were to be **BAPTIZED** with the **HOLY SPIRIT** later. But that the others there -- the unrepentant -- were awaiting the wrath to come, which shall burn them with -- baptize them into -- a fiery death! (**Verse 11, last word.**) This fire is the ultimate fate of the wicked, who shall be cast into the lake of fire -- this earth’s surface burning up -- which is the second and final death (**Revelation 21:8**).

**4.** Did John also compare the evil to chaff? How did he say the Messiah would separate them from the good, so they could be burned? **Matthew 3:12.**

**COMMENT:** At the final judgment, the Messiah’s fan is to be in his hand. With it he will

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purge his floor. Of what? Of chaff which he will FAN AWAY -- remove. The Messiah will have gathered his wheat into the garner -- the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God. Then he will later remove -- destroy -- the chaff by FIRE. That is the fate of the chaff -- unquenchable fire!

5. Did Yeshua also compare the evil to tares -- weeds which are a menace to the good? What are Yeshua's own words concerning his gathering of his wheat -- the good -- and the burning of the tares -- the evil? **Matthew 13:30**. Also scan quickly the rest of this parable, beginning with **verse 24**. Did Yeshua elaborate on what the symbol" of this parable represent? **Matthew 13:36-42**.



Grain harvest pictures the "wheat" of Yeshua's parable which is to be gathered into YEHOVAH's Kingdom.

**COMMENT:** "His (the Messiah's) floor" in **Matthew 3:12** is the same as "his field" of **Matthew 13:24** -- both are this earth. "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his FIELD." But while he slept, the enemy, the devil, came and sowed tares -- sinners. Now he lets both the wheat and the tares (the chaff) -- saints and sinners -- grow together in his field -- his floor (this earth) -- until the harvest. Then he will send the angels to BAPTIZE THE TARES -- the unrepentant chaff -- WITH FIRE that burns them up; but the wheat

-- the saved -- are gathered into his garner which represents the Kingdom.

That settles it!

John the Baptist was speaking to both those ultimately to receive salvation and to the unrepentant sinners.

When he said, "Christ shall baptize 'you,'" the "you" included BOTH groups. The repentant are those he would baptize with his Father's spirit -- the others with all-consuming fire at the time of the final judgment! You don't want the "baptism with fire," do you?

### "Baptism for the DEAD"

Another doctrine being taught today is that of "Baptism for the Dead." Its history, like that of infant baptism, clearly descends from paganism. It is widely practiced and taught by the Roman Catholic Church whose members have themselves "baptized" for dead relatives and friends who died unbaptized. This custom is based on their misrepresentation of **I Corinthians 15:29**.

First notice how this custom crept into the professing Christian world.

History shows that the heretic Marcion, about 150 A.D., introduced an idea of his own -- the practice of baptizing the living for the dead. Chrysostom describes the procedure as

follows:

"When a catechumen (one receiving training in doctrine before church membership) dies, they conceal a living person under the bed of the departed. Then they stand before the dead, and ask the dead person whether or not he is willing to be baptized. Instead of the dead, who is unable to answer, the person under the bed replies in the affirmative. Whereupon they baptize him instead of the deceased, and thus make quite a farce of the whole matter. Such power has Satan over the minds of foolish men.

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And if you complain of this transaction, they appeal to the words of the Apostle Paul, who speaks of being ‘Baptized for the dead’" (Hoary. xl in *I Corinthians by Chrysostom*).

Now let’s learn the truth about **I Corinthians 15:29**.

**1.** Can the dead possibly be aware of someone being baptized on their behalf? **Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10**.

**COMMENT:** Those who are baptized FOR the dead actually believe they’re being baptized for (on the behalf of) the flitting “immortal souls” of their dead unconverted friends or relatives! Such baptism is supposed to automatically SAVE those “souls” and send them straight to Heaven!

How foolish this doctrine of men really is! We have already proved by scripture that the doctrines of the “immortal soul” and that of men going to heaven are of Satanically inspired, pagan origin. With this knowledge alone, the MAN-MADE doctrine of vicarious baptism crumbles!

Baptism obviously is for the LIVING, NOT the DEAD! Only the LIVING can REPENT, and repentance is a PRIOR CONDITION to baptism. The dead are dead -- they “know not anything”!

**2.** Would Christians have any HOPE of a future resurrection if the Messiah had not been resurrected? **I Corinthians 15:16-19, 32**. But don’t **verses 3-8, 20** prove the Messiah was resurrected and that we therefore can have HOPE of being RESURRECTED too?

**COMMENT:** The subject of the entire **15th chapter of I Corinthians** is the CHRISTIAN’S HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION.

**3.** Exactly what does Paul say about “baptism for the dead”? **I Corinthians 15:29**.

**COMMENT:** This verse is not correctly translated from the original inspired Greek. Paul is NOT talking about being baptized “in the place of” the dead, or “in behalf of” the dead, or “for” the dead. The inspired Greek word translated “for” is “huper”. “Huper” is a vague

word having too many meanings to accurately choose from.

Therefore, the context of the entire chapter must determine the actual meaning of the word as Paul intended!

As one proof of the resurrection, Paul cites in **verse 29** the example of those who were baptized, symbolizing their HOPE in the RESURRECTION. He is actually asking the question, “why be baptized IF the dead rise not?” Therefore, since Paul is speaking of the HOPE of the resurrection in the context of **chapter 15, verse 29** should properly read: “Else what shall they do which are baptized for (THE HOPE OF) the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for (THE HOPE OF) the dead?”

What is the hope of the dead? The resurrection! In **verse 29** Paul is writing about baptism, which pictures, among other things, the HOPE of the RESURRECTION! Arising out of the watery “grave” of baptism is a symbol of the hope of the DEAD -- the hope of a FUTURE RESURRECTION which they had when they were alive.

To surrender one’s life to the Messiah now, to crucify the self now, to be baptized -- all this is foolish unless there is hope thereby of a resurrection!

This verse has absolutely nothing to do with the false doctrine of baptism in place of or “for” the unbaptized dead! The holy spirit-inspired New Testament Ecclesia did NOT practice this totally unscriptural custom! And the apostle Paul DID NOT teach it!

### Who Has AUTHORITY to Baptize?

Finally, who is AUTHORIZED to administer baptism? Must it be done by an ordained minister?

**1.** Are those who are sent forth by the Messiah -- by his Ecclesia -- the ones he commands and gives authority to do baptizing? **Matthew 28:18-19**. Did the Messiah authorize his disciples to baptize for him? **John 4:1-2**.

**COMMENT:** Yeshua commissioned

his disciples to baptize for him -- by his authority.

2. Did Yeshua commission the apostle Paul to baptize repentant believers, or to preach the gospel? **I Corinthians 1:13-17.**



**Thousands of Christians have died with the HOPE of being resurrected at the Messiah's appearance. And thousands of others are being baptized today for this same "hope of the dead."**

**COMMENT:** Paul baptized very few! He had others do it for the Messiah. He was the called minister by whom the Messiah carried the gospel to the Gentiles ("Lost" Ten Tribes) -- through whom the Messiah, as head of the Ecclesia, ruled the ecclesias which had been raised up by the preaching of Paul and the YOUNG MEN he had taught and sent out under his direction. Paul did not consider it important or essential that he, personally, baptize all those being converted under the ministry YEHOVAH God carried on through his supervision. "Christ sent me not to baptize," Paul said.

The principle to remember is that it is really THE MESSIAH who baptizes you! The man who puts you under the water is merely performing this physical act FOR the Messiah, in his stead -- BY HIS AUTHORITY.

Consider that it is THE MESSIAH who is baptizing you by a HUMAN INSTRUMENT who has been COMMISSIONED BY HIS TRUE ECCLESIA! And even if his human

instrument turns out to be imperfect, remember all humans are imperfect, and that the baptism was DONE FOR, and IN THE NAME OF the only human being who ever was perfect. And since it was in reality done by the Messiah, it should never be done again if one has understood and complied with YEHOVAH's conditions for salvation.

### **Baptism -- A self-Administered Rite**

The ordinance of baptism is patterned after the ritualistic mikvah or sacred bath. The practice of ceremonial immersion, the forerunner of Christian baptism, was a "self-administered" baptism, in which the person, or priest, walked out into the bath, or pool, and then immersed himself (or herself).

In light of this, Dr. Robert Lindsey of Jerusalem has suggested that John the Baptist himself did not actually "baptize" people, by putting his hands on them and pushing them under the water. Rather, the baptism was a self-administered procedure to which John bore witness and supervised.

Similarly, in the Judean ritual of the mikvah, the person is forbidden to touch anyone else while in the baptismal pool or bath. Such touching would "contaminate" the process and render it "unclean" and unfit.

How does this relate to the Christian practice of baptism?

Yeshua the Messiah, John the Baptist, and the early apostles were all Judeans. They were well acquainted with the mikvah, and the rites of purification. It is undoubted therefore that baptism, which was based on and patterned on the mikvah purification ritual, should also be performed in a similar fashion, without human hands of another person interfering with the process.

Baptism is literally between each man or

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woman and YEHOVAH God. It should be performed by the person himself, standing in water, and immersing himself! This should be done, of course, under the supervision of the one responsible for conducting the "baptism" ceremony -- but without that person actually "laying hold" on the individual being baptized. Thus, the vast majority of so-called "Christian" baptisms performed down through the years have missed the point, and failed to fulfil this ritual in the strict sense of the word.

**1. What does I Timothy 2:5 say?**

**COMMENT:** To have another human being plunging another beneath the water is contrary to YEHOVAH's intent. It interposes another human being between each person and YEHOVAH God. For one man to literally "baptize" another interposes a fallible human being in the middle of this divine relationship.

Having a man hold the candidate for baptism under water interferes with total and complete ritual purity and the symbolism of true and complete "baptism" or immersion: When one man "baptizes" another, pushing him below the water, wherever his hands touch the individual or the clothing of the individual, that spot is not "washed," or "cleansed," but is prevented from being touched by the water. But even more important, baptism is a purely VOLUNTARY act, which a person decides to do of his own free will.

Therefore, for another person to "plunge him under the water" implies he needs human assistance to do this, and perhaps is even forced or coerced into doing it. This obstructs the "voluntary" nature of the act itself, and contradicts the whole sacred meaning of a person choosing to immerse themselves in the water, to become cleansed of sin, and to become spiritually "purified" in the sight of YEHOVAH God.

Baptism is a symbol of our "death" in the water, and being raised by YEHOVAH to newness of life. In true death, no human being would be touching us. Also, no human being can raise us up to live again, in newness of life --

only YEHOVAH God and the Messiah can do that. Therefore, the symbolism is violated by a man plunging a person into the water, and then a man lifting us up out of the water.

### **How Baptism Should Be Performed**

What is the purpose of a man, or minister of YEHOVAH God, "baptizing" another? Of course, ministers of YEHOVAH are commanded to "baptize" people who have repented of their sins. But what does this entail? What does it mean? How is it to be done?

Obviously, those in charge of the baptismal ceremony are actually there to SUPERVISE each candidate as they perform their own self-immersion, and to see to it that they do it properly, and go all the way under the water, in complete "burial." They need not touch the individual or his or her clothing in carrying out such supervision. They merely need to be attentive, and to watch carefully, insuring that the person being baptized completely fulfills the requirement.

The candidate and the person "baptizing" should both go into the water, as John the Baptist did with Yeshua, and Philip did with the Ethiopian eunuch, and then on confession of sin and repentance, the candidate should gently lower themselves all the way beneath the water, in a sitting position, and then rise up from that position out of the water. How simple. How plain. How divine and pure and sensible.

Too many times I have seen churches, and ministers of various churches, try to inject themselves, and their systematic theology, into the lives of people, commanding them to be baptized their way, and only in their church, insinuating their self-proclaimed authority over the new Christians. In this way they bring them into a state of religious "bondage" and spiritual slavery to their dictatorial and dogmatic "authority."

Such a system of baptism is definitely not YEHOVAH's way.

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### Have YOU Been Baptized?

Baptism symbolizes a person's "death and burial" of their human flesh and desires, the "old man," and their rising up out of that watery grave having obtained "new life" and becoming a "new man" in Messiah Yeshua.

**1.** Notice what Paul says in **Ephesians 4:22-24**. COMMENT: Baptism, then, is a vital and integral part of the Christian life. It is the beginning of a NEW LIFE -- a life destined to live for all eternity.

**2.** What does YEHOVAH God promise to give us when we are baptized, having repented of our sins and accepted the Messiah as our mediator? **Acts 5:38**.

**COMMENT:** YEHOVAH God promises us a part of His very own Being and Life, within us.

**3.** So, from this point on, what is "FORMED" in us? **Galatians 4:19**.

**COMMENT:** The Messiah and his character is "formed" in us. And if we grow, and endure, and remain faithful to the end of our lives, then we will inherit ETERNAL LIFE in the Family and Kingdom of YEHOVAH GOD!

Have you been "baptized"? Remember Peter's words:

"REPENT, 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**).

"REPENT YE THEREFORE, AND BE CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (**Acts 3:19**).

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT YE, and believe the gospel" (**Mark 1:15**).

Have you "repented"? Do you "believe"? Have you accepted the Messiah -- Yeshua -- as your personal saviour?

What hinders you from being baptized?

### NOTES:

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#### Answers to Questions in Lesson 27:

1. Yes. 2. No 3. Be baptized in water.
4. No, we also need YEHOVAH's holy spirit. 5. By the laying on of hands and YEHOVAH's granting of the spirit. 6. The Egyptian Pharaoh. 7. No, the disciples did it in the Messiah's name. 8. The Messiah's resurrection. 9. No 10. (c). 11. For the receiving of the holy spirit. 12. Yes. 13. (a). 14. Yes.

# Check Your Progress...

**Question 1:** Is it true that most churches today baptize their members in the exact manner YEHOUAH God commands in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** Is it true that the vast majority of people baptized by the world's churches have truly repented? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:** What is the hope of the dead? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 4:** The persistently evil or unrepentant ones are compared to \_\_\_\_\_ which are to be eternally burned up.

**Question 5:** Is baptism for a dead person vain and ridiculous? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 6:** Should we consider that it is the Messiah who is baptizing us when we do it ourselves? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 7:** The baptism with fire will eternally \_\_\_\_\_ those who persistently continue to seek it.

**Question 8:** How soon must repentant people be baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 9:** What does YEHOUAH God demand of us before baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 10:** Is it true the Catholic Church "fathers" had nothing to do with the spreading of the false doctrine of infant baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 11:** Is a child mature enough at age 12 to truly repent and continue to grow spiritually? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 12:** The "tongues" spoken at tarry meetings are not true \_\_\_\_\_ at all but vain babblings inspired by Satan's demons.

**Question 13:** What is the Bible EVIDENCE of one's having received the baptism of YEHOUAH's spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 14:** Is it true the word "unknown" used in the Bible regarding speaking in "tongues" (languages) has been ADDED by the translators and should not appear at all? \_\_\_\_\_

The answers will be found in Test #7. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 25-28, 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**.

E-Mail: [kiwihope@gmail.com](mailto:kiwihope@gmail.com)

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