

What Is Baptism? Examining the Term Itself

There are 5 related terms used in the New Testament (2 verbs, 3 nouns):

- V: **baptō** (βάπτω): *to dip in or to immerse* (3x in 3 verses)
- V: **baptidō** (βαπτίζω): *to dip, to immerse* (77x in 64 verses)
- N: **baptisma** (βάπτισμα): *baptism* (19x in 19 verses)
- N: **baptismos** (βαπτισμός): *a dipping, ceremonial washing [by dipping]* (4x/4)
- N: **baptistes** (βαπτιστής): *baptizer* (12x in 12 verses) → *always* used for John

BAPTO (βάπτω): “to dip” – 3x

- Lk 16:24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that **he may dip** the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'
- Jn 13:26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I **have dipped it**." And **having dipped** the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon.
- Rev 19:13 He *was* clothed with a robe **dipped** in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

BAPTISMOS (βαπτισμός): “baptism,” “a dipping,” or “an immersing” – 4x

- Mk 7:4 *When they come* from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, *like* the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.
- Col 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- Heb 6:2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
- Heb 9:10 *concerned* only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

BAPTISMA (βάπτισμα): “baptism,” “a dipping” or “an immersing”– 19x

- Mk 1:4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (cf. Mt 3:7)
- Mk 10:38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (cf. 10:39; cp. Lk 12:50)
- Mk 11:30 "The baptism of John-- was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me." (cp. Matt 21:25; Luke 7:29; 20:4; Acts 1:22; 10:37; 18:25; 19:3)
- Lk 3:3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, (cp. Acts 13:24; 19:4)
- Rom. 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (cf. 1 Pet 3:21)
- Eph 4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

BAPTIDZO (βαπτίζω): “to dip” or “to immerse” – 77x

1. **Used of the Pharisees Dipping to _____ (2x)**
 - Lk 11:38 When the Pharisee saw *it*, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner. (Mk 7:4 – see *baptismos*)
2. **Used of John Immersing Followers in _____ (26x)**
 - Mk 1:5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.
3. **Used of John’s Activity of Immersing in Water (2x) – like “baptizer”**
4. **Used of Jesus’ Disciples Immersing Followers in _____ (5x)**
 - Jn 4:1-2 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), (cf. John 3:22-23, 26)
5. **Used of the _____ Baptizing Believers in Water (24x)**
 - Matt 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them...,
 - Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; ...
 - Acts 18:8 ... And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.
6. **Used of Jesus Immersing People in _____ (2x)**
 - Matt 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Lk 3:16)
7. **Used of Jesus Immersing People in the _____ (6x)**
 - Mk 1:8 "I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (cf. Mt 3:11, Lk 3:16; Jn 1:33; Acts 1:5, 11:16)
8. **Used of Jesus and His Followers Immersed in _____ (5x)**
 - Lk 12:50 "But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! (cp. Mk 10:38-39)
9. **Used of Believers Immersed into _____ (4x)**
 - Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
 - 1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
 - Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
10. **Used of Israelites Immersed into Moses’ Identity/Activity (1x)**
 - 1 Cor 10:2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,