

Assembly of Eloah

This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent -- Jesus Christ. Jn. 17:3

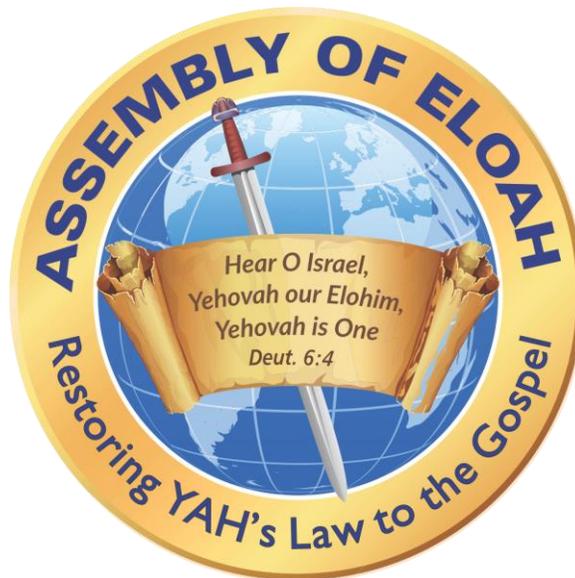
Baptism Ceremony

The Hebrew word is Mikvah

(Copyright © 1998, 2009 James Dailley)

Edition 2

Baptism is the first of the two sacraments of the Assemblies of Eloah. A sacrament is a formal ceremony which confers a specific grace upon those who receive it. It is from the Latin word *sacramentum* which means 'a consecrating'. That is, to declare one as holy and set apart and dedicated to the service of our God and Father.



P.O. Box 45 • Rockton • Ontario • Canada • L0R1X0 • www.assemblyofeloah.org

This paper may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied in total with no alterations or deletions. The publisher's name and address and copyright notice must be included. No charge may be levied on recipients of the distributed copies. Brief quotations may be embodied in critical articles and reviews without breaching copyright.

Our receipt and retention of the gift of God's Holy Spirit is based upon our repentance and conversion in response to His calling. This calling leaves our free will intact and we will exhibit suitable fruit, which will be evident and a witness from the keeping of all of God's Law.

Baptism

Baptism is the first of the two sacraments of the Assemblies of Eloah. The second sacrament is the Lord's Supper. This should not be taken by anyone without an understanding of the Gospel in Plan of God. There should have been evidence of repentance which was followed by a baptism with a complete immersion. The complete immersion is necessary as it is symbolic of a true death of the old nature and a rebirth as a new being who is related to Y^ehovah.

"The word Mikvah refers to a "collection of water". Amongst the ancient Jews, a pool of natural, usually running, water in which one bathes for the restoration of ritual purity. The Mishna describes in elaborate detail the requirements for ritually proper water and for the quantity of water required for ritual cleansing. In former times, a mikvah was so essential to each community of Jews that, if necessary, a synagogue could be sold to finance its construction".

There were baptisms for Purification, Repentance, Identification (with Messiah), of the Spirit, by Fire, and with Suffering.

See the Mishnah, in the Sixth Division.

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us

press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

The washings or baptisms were a faith based activity related to cleansing before entering the Temple being made clean. The area around the Temple had numerous Mikvah pools although the Jordan river and other sources of water were also used. (*Acts 8:28-32*)

Acts 1:4-5 And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 2:37-41 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

We are saved by God's grace through faith but we come under condemnation through breaking God's covenant Law (*Romans 5:20-6:19*). We receive and retain God's Holy Spirit conditionally.

Along with preaching and teaching, baptism is part of the commission given to the Church of God meaning the Assemblies of Eloah.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

The verse above does not appear in any early records and we do not use it. We baptize by the authority from Christ's name and his acceptable sacrifice. (*Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5, Acts 22:16, Luke 24:46-47*).

The individual's decision to seek baptism is a three-part process:

First:

We must repent; meaning we change and stop sinning and resolve to keep God's Law all day, every day.

Secondly:

We are baptized for the remission of sin through a Spiritual death and the subsequent removal of the death penalty.

Thirdly:

We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and an increasing peace of mind.

Repentance

Repentance requires us to change and turn away from our former sinful manner

of living and to live in harmony with what God desires. It is not simple remorse, but a complete alteration to our code of conduct. All of humanity has sinned!

We all must admit that we have sinned.

1John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

We must repent and we must believe the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Together, this action and belief produces conversion and our willing participation so that our sins may be blotted out.

Acts 3:19-20 ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

Unless we repent,

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, 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.

we will all perish.

Luke 13:1-5 There were some present at that very time who told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? ³ I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt

in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

We must be immersed *completely* in water, and buried; so that we would die unless raised out of the water, to life.

Romans 6:3-9 ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For he who has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. ⁹ For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

This activity is a true death and coming out of this watery grave symbolizes a resurrection to a new way of life.

We are baptized into Christ Jesus and not into any sect, denomination or church.

Romans 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

This is into one Body with many members.

1 Corinthians 12:13-14 ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -- and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

We must be transformed,

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

growing in grace and knowledge

2Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

and bearing fruit of character as the evidence of our repentance.

Galatians 5:22-23 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.

There is however a cost. This should be given thought, or potential suffering counted, before this step of baptism is taken.

Luke 14:25-33 ²⁵ Now great multitudes accompanied him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build, and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty

thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Sin

Baptism by immersion symbolizes the death of our former way of life in sin. We are then free of the penalty for our sin. Sin is Law or Commandment breaking (1John 3:4).

1John 3:1-9 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. ⁴ Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does right is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God.

Acts 22:16 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

It will take study and developing self control of our thinking.

2Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of

God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

This is in order to understand the difference between the simple physical activity of sin and the spiritual application of the Law that is now required.

Matthew 5:17-28 "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ "You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; ²⁶ truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny. ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is conferred at the direction of God, signified by the laying on of hands. Thus, the Holy Spirit enters the repentant individual. The Holy Spirit is not conferred by the person laying hands on the individual. The person (or persons) laying on hands does so as the representative of a Church of God by Christ's appointment.

Acts 9:17-18 ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized,

This physical act is necessary even for a spiritual activity.

Acts 8:14-19 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

The Spirit draws the elect to God through Christ's enabling sacrifice

Hebrews 7:25 Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

and the first fruits of the Spirit are given to the individual at his or her baptism.

Romans 8:23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Acts 19:1-6 And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, ² and he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they *said* to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." ³ And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.

If we give our ways to God, He will establish our thoughts and ways of thinking so we can spiritually discern and make correct judgments.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

The more you keep all of the terms of the Covenant, the better your understanding of God's will in your life will become.

Counsel

The candidate is to have been duly counseled for baptism beforehand. Baptism should not be performed on demand nor needlessly delayed if there are obvious fruits of repentance.

This means the individual should understand *Who* they are to worship, *When* the acceptable times of worship are, and *How* they must conduct themselves for the rest of their life. They must understand what idolatry and sin are, and the basic salvation beliefs.

The candidate is to be baptized by complete immersion at an appropriate safe place. The candidate is to be accompanied by the minister performing the ceremony, who is to inspect the site for safety and security.

Baptism is often performed prior to Passover or at the Feasts of God, but it may also be done at any time as decided by the Minister performing the ceremony.

The Ceremony

It is not necessary for the Minister to be in the water but someone should assist the disciple for safety reasons.

When the candidate is standing in the water, the minister will ask the following questions:

State your full name:

Do you believe that there is one God who is Father of all, and one Lord, Jesus Christ?

Have you repented of your sins?

Are you aware that you are dead in your sins and in need of the saving grace provided by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ?

Do you believe that Christ died to cover the debt for your sins?

Do you believe that Christ's sacrifice was accepted by God the Father and that He raised Jesus Christ from the dead?

Do you undertake to keep the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ, the Messiah?

We now baptize you for the remission of sin.

The candidate is then to be told to cross his or her arms and to hold his or her nose, and the minister performing the ceremony is to place his hand behind the candidate for support and lower the person backwards into the water ensuring that the person is fully immersed.

The candidate should then be taken to dry ground and kneel down. The minister(s) are to lay hands on the person's head and say:

"Eternal Father, we baptize (use the persons given name) by the authority given to the Name of Yahoshua Messiah, Jesus Christ".

"Accordingly, Father, we request that your Holy Spirit is placed in this person, Amen".

The person is then to be given the charge as follows:

"You are baptized into the Spiritual Body of His Son, Jesus Christ, with others, as his betrothed".

"You are not baptized into any sect or cult or corporation or denomination".

"You are baptized by authority of Jesus Christ's acceptable sacrifice which was granted through the power of God's Holy Spirit".

Amen Eloah, our God and Father.