

John 3: 23

SUBJECT: The Baptism  
in water

9  
3/87

CP

Matt 23:18-20

John 3:23 TEXT  
WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT BAPTISM

Meaning, mode, and message.

I. The Meaning of the Word  
verb βαπτίζω used 24 times in the N.T.  
noun βαπτισμα " 27 " " " "

1. The best classical Greek Lexicon, Liddell & Scott:  
βαπτίζω = "to dip in or under water"

2. The best N.T. Greek Lexicon, Thayer:  
βαπτίζω = "to dip, to immerse, to submerge"

3. The highest possible Roman Catholic authority,  
the Douay Version with notes officially  
endorsed by Pope Pius IX; the comment on  
Matt. 3:6: "baptized i.e. with water 'baptism'  
signifies a washing, particularly when it is  
done by immersion, i.e. dipping or plunging  
a thing under water, which was formerly  
the ordinary way of administering the sacrament  
of baptism."

4. the baptistry of Pisa

5. the "Duomo, Florence  
Michael Angelo, "the doors of Heaven"

6. St Paul's Basilica (4 in Rome)  
St Peter  
St John  
St Mary  
St Paul

The practice of the Roman Catholic Church (like the practice of the Greek Orthodox Church) during the first 8<sup>th</sup> centuries was to administer baptism by immersion.

So "The Credentials of the Catholic Religion" — "The common method during the first 17 centuries was to baptize by immersion."

and again: "Anciently, those who were baptized were immersed as burial in water to represent their death to sin, as they did rise up out of the water, to signify their entrance upon a new life. The baptism, by a kind of analogy a resemblance, with our bodies are made the water we may be said to be buried with ~~it~~ <sup>him</sup>."

# THE MODE OF BAPTISM

## THE MESSAGE OF BAPTISM

### The Mode of Baptism

The scriptural mode or method of baptism is explained by John Wesley, the eminent founder of the Methodist Church. In his Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament in two scriptures he says: "Romans 6:4, 'we are buried with him'—Alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion; that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory—Glorious power, of the Father, so we also by the same power should rise again. And as he lives a new life in heaven, so we should walk in newness of life. This, says the apostle, our very baptism represents to us." And, he further says in Colossians 2:12 "Buried with him in baptism! The ancient manner of baptizing by immersion is manifestly alluded to here, by which you are also risen with him—from the death of sin to the life of holiness.

In the King James version, they <sup>use</sup> not  
the translation of the Greek word  
BAPTIZO?

By 1611 the Anglican church  
sprinkled. The translators of the KJ  
James version <sup>(ANGELICANS)</sup> came to the KJ in  
simplicity; what to do. The meaning  
of the word plain. Finally, under  
direction of the KJ, decided to  
transliterate, not translate, the  
word. So BAPTIZ(O)E.



HIPPOCRATES on Epidemics  
A. 460 B.C. Book V

Describing the respiration of a patient  
affected with inflammation of the  
throat:

"She breathed, each <sup>from</sup> ~~from~~  
breath after having <sup>been</sup> ~~(submerged)~~  
(buried) and emitted a low  
sound from the chest."

Aristotle

b. 384 B.C.

Writing of what the Phoenician  
colonists had seen when sailing  
beyond the Pillars of Hercules (beyond  
the Strait of Gibraltar):

"Sailing four days beyond the  
Pillars of Hercules with an ead-  
wind, they came to desert places  
full of rushes & sea-weed,  
which, at low tide, are  
not baptized, (unmoored), but  
at flood-tide are (submerged)  
(baptized).

Polybius History Book IV ch. 22  
A. 205 BC.

Speaking of the passage of the Roman  
army under <sup>consul</sup> Titus Sempronius, through the  
river TEDIA, swollen by  
heavy rains.

"They passed through with  
difficulty, the foot-soldiers  
(unarmed) (~~light~~) up to the  
waist."



POLYBIUS, History Book 34, Ch. 3  
A. 200 BC.

Describing the manner of taking  
swallow-fish with an iron-headed spear  
used as a harpoon:

"And even if the spear falls  
into the sea, it is not lost; for  
it is composed of <sup>solid</sup> oak or  
pine, so that when the oaken  
part is ~~burst~~ (crushed) by  
the weight, the rest is buoyed  
up, and is easily recovered."

POLYBIUS, History Book 34, Ch. 3  
A. 200 BC.

Describing the manner of taking  
swan-fish with an iron-headed spear  
used as a harpoon:

"And even if the spear falls  
into the sea, it is not lost; for  
it is composed of <sup>solid</sup> oak or  
pine, so that when the oaken  
part is ~~burst~~ (crushed) by  
the weight, the rest is buoyed  
up, and is easily recovered."

STRABO Geography Book XII ch. 7  
6. 6005.

Speaking of the march, Alexander  
went along a narrow beach (flooded  
in stormy weather) between the  
mountains called CHIMAR and the  
Pamphilian Sea, says:

"Alexander, happening to be  
there at the stormy season, and  
accustomed to trust for the most  
part to fortune, set forward  
before the swell subsided;  
and they marched the whole day  
in water up to the knees (unarmed)  
as far as to the river."

DIOODORUS History Book I Ch. 36  
wrote about 40 B.C.

Describing the effects of the rapid rise  
of the waters of the Nile during the  
annual inundation:

"Most of the wild <sup>land</sup> animals  
are surrounded by the waters  
at first, being baptized  
(submerged); but some, escaping  
to the high grounds, are saved."

JOSEPHUS Antiquities Book IX ch. 10  
A.D. 37  
*comptenans 2 apollon*

Describing Jesus's flight:  
"the ship being just about to  
be (submerged) (baptized)."

Jewish war Book III  
ch. 10

The war in Galilee (A.D. 37), as given  
as Roman history on the Sea of Galilee:

"and when the Jews ventured to  
come near the Romans, they suffered  
loss before they could neglect any,  
and they were (submerged) (baptized)  
along with their vessels . . .  
and those who (submerged) (baptized)  
also raised their heads, either a  
mixed vessel reached, or a vessel  
rescued them."



PHUTARCH *Biographer*  
A.D. 100. On the skill & wisdom  
of land animals

Speaking of the bird called  
HALCYON and of her skill in  
constructing her nest which is  
shaped like a fisher's boat so as  
to float safely in the water, says:

"That which is molded by  
her is constructed with the  
shipwright's art, as of many  
forms [of nests] It is the only one  
not liable to be overturned  
nor to be (mis)used (boasted)."