

## Baptism is by Immersion, NOT Sprinkling or Pouring

By Casey Head

- The word “baptism” comes from the Greek words *baptisma* and *baptizo*. The word *baptisma* means “consisting of the process of immersion, submersion and emergence.” The word “baptizo” means “to dip.” It carries with it the idea of being plunged under or overwhelmed by something. When the New Testament was first translated from Greek to English, the Catholics, in an effort to maintain their doctrine of “sprinkling” failed to properly translate the word “immerse.” Instead, they transliterated the word which resulted in the words baptism, baptized, (John the) Baptist, etc. They did this in an effort to conceal the truth and uphold their false practice. However, when we consider the Greek, it is clear that the word refers to immersion.
- The conversion account of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:35-39 also proves that baptism was by immersion. When Philip baptized the eunuch, vv. 38 says, “they went down both into the water.” Verse 39 says, “And when they were come up out of the water.” The eunuch was not sprinkled, but rather immersed.
- Passages such as Romans 6:3-8 and Colossians 2:12 teach that we are “buried” when we are baptized. In fact, baptism is compared to the burial of Christ in Romans 6. Paul even says that we are raised from the watery grave to walk in newness of life. When a person is buried, they are submerged completely. This proves that baptism is by immersion.
- John 3:23 says regarding the ministry of John, “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there...” Neither sprinkling nor pouring require “much water,” but John chose this particular region because it had much water. This points to immersion.
- When John baptized Jesus in Matthew 3:16, it says, “And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water...” Again, we conclude that Jesus was immersed in the Jordan River (3:6), not sprinkled.
- CONCLUSION: All of the above passages and arguments establish without a doubt that baptism is by immersion. The very word means immersion, and the New Testament pattern confirms that when a person is baptized, they go down into the water (buried) and come up out of the water (raised). Sprinkling and pouring are both unbiblical. Where is just one example of sprinkling or pouring? There isn’t one! Where is an example of infant baptism? Again, there isn’t one! BAPTISM IS BY IMMERSION. SPRINKLING AND POURING ARE UNACCEPTABLE AND DO NOT QUALIFY AS VALID METHODS OF BAPTISM.