

Parashat Pinchas - פינחס - "Phinehas"

Torah ~ *Num. 25:10-30:1* Haftarah ~ *1 Kings 18:46-19:21* Brit Chadashah ~ *Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4*

Aliyah to the Torah ~ *Numbers 27:15-23* *1 Kings 19:16-19* *1 Peter 5:2-4*

Pinchas (Phinehas) is our forty-first reading from the Torah. In this portion, the Lord makes a covenant of peace with Phinehas and his descendants, orders a second census, settles questions about inheritance, appoints Joshua to succeed Moses and lists the sacrifices for the appointed times.

Joshua Appointed Moses' Successor

Numbers 27:15-23 ~ Moses prays for a man to be appointed over the congregation. His prayer is answered by God's appointment of Joshua over the congregation of Israel. So God takes of the spirit of Moses and bestows it upon Joshua. Joshua, however, was destined to die a generation later, leaving Israel like sheep without a shepherd once again. For Moses' prayer to be answered in its fullest, it was necessary that God appoint a man as a shepherd over Israel who would not succumb to death.

Yeshua is the one "appointed over the congregation" that will never succumb to death. Jesus' Hebrew name, Yeshua, in its long form is "Yehoshua", which is Joshua's Hebrew name, meaning "salvation". Yeshua is the real answer to Moses' prayer that God might appoint a man over the congregation (*Deut. 18:17-18*).

Without the teaching and guidance of Yeshua, we are like a flock of sheep without a shepherd. He is the shepherd of Israel and the shepherd of our souls. *1 Peter 2:25* says, "For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." NKJV

Just like the authority/spirit of Moses was bestowed upon Joshua when he started his ministry, the Holy Spirit of God was bestowed upon Yeshua when He started His ministry at His baptism.

Baptism

The words baptize or baptism are found 100 times in the New Testament. Baptism comes from the Greek word "baptismos", which comes from the Hebrew "tevilah", meaning "to immerse". This ritual immersion in water is carried out in a mikvah, which is a Hebrew word meaning "gathering of waters." This gathered water had to be living water, water that was flowing or running.

The Hebrew for living water is "maiym chaiyim". This "maiym chaiyim" is symbolic of spiritual cleansing, life and rebirth. It serves as an important element in the spiritual life of both Jew's and Christian's.

John 7:38 ~ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (maiym chaiyim)."

Isaiah 12:3 ~ "Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation (Yeshua)." NKJV

Of the 100 times that baptize/baptism is found in the New Testament, 79 times it is referring directly to being immersed in water.

Baptism is not what saves us ~ *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34 ~ Yeshua Himself was baptized, being our example.

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

Symbolic purpose of Baptism

To be buried, raised up, and made alive in Messiah (Salvation) ~ *Colossians 2:12-13*

Being added to the body of Messiah (Salvation) ~ *1 Corinthians 12:13*

Washing away our sins (Repentance) ~ *Acts 22:16*

To put off our old sinful man and put on Messiah (Living for Yeshua) ~ *Galations 3:27*

But baptism is not a New Testament concept, it actually came from the Jewish people, from the Tanakh (Old Testament).

Old Testament picture's of baptism.

Paul says in *Romans 7:14* that "God's standards in Moses' Teachings are spiritual" (GOD'S WORD Translation). Every literally thing in the Old Testament (Feasts, Sabbath, sacrifices, etc.) has a spiritually reality in Yeshua.

Genesis 7 ~ Peter refers to Noah's flood as a "picture of baptism" in *1 Peter 3:20-21* NLT.

Genesis 17:10-27 ~ Circumcision, like baptism, is an outward sign of what has already taken place inside of us (covenant).

Exodus 14 ~ Paul refers to the crossing of the Red Sea in *1 Cor. 10:2* as a picture of baptism.

Exodus 19:10-11 ~ Just before God gave the Ten Commandments, He commanded Israel to wash their clothes in water.

Exodus 30:18-21 ~ The laver of brass was given for the Priests to wash before entering the Holy Place in the Tabernacle.

Leviticus 15:13 ~ "When a person with a discharge has become free of it, he is to count seven days for his purification. Then he is to wash his clothes and bathe his body in running water; after that, he will be clean". CJB

Numbers 19:9 ~ The sprinkling of the Red Heifer ashes for water purification.

Numbers 31:23-24 ~ God ordained a water purification ceremony for the Israelites after they had won a war.

Joshua 3 ~ The Israelites cross the Jordan River into the promised land, lead by Yehoshua (Joshua).

2 Kings 5:10-14 ~ Naaman was healed of leprosy after obeying Elisha's instructions to dip seven times in the river Jordan.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 ~ regarding the Brit Chadashah (New Covenant), which says; "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you; I will take the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit inside you and cause you to live by my laws, respect my rulings and obey them". CJB

Recent archaeological digs in Israel have revealed several Mikvot (plural) in the Second Temple compound, as well as in the Judean desert, built by the Qumran community (The Essenes). Modern-day visitors to Israel can see the remains of these ritual baths throughout the Southern wall excavations. There are immersion baths at Massada, at the Herodian, at Qumran, and all over the Land of Israel.

In Judaism today, the water of the mikvah is referred to as "the womb of the world". When a Gentile converts, they go down into the waters of the mikvah, they leave behind their pagan ways— symbolically dying to their old life – and come up out of the water as a newborn child with an entire new identity. They are spiritually reborn and adopted into the family of God. They would become just as the native born Israelite (*Numbers 15:15-16*).

Galatians 3:29 ~ "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." NKJV

Ephesians 2:11-13 ~ Though we were once far from God, we are now children of God through Yeshua.

So it should be no surprise to see the New Testament use similar or the same terms as "born anew", "new creation", and "born from above". In *John 3:3-10*, we find Yeshua and Nicodemus talking about this very subject. In verse 3, Yeshua says, "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" NKJV.

So it is only by the conversion of our heart, through Yeshua, that we receive salvation.