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The Herald of King Messiah



The baptism of **John** and believer's baptism are not the same thing. The basic idea behind "baptism" is identification. Whenever you are baptized, you identify with a person and/or message and/or group. In fact, baptism was a Jewish practice long before it became a messianic practice. Among the things that Gentiles had to do when they converted to Judaism was to be baptized. When Gentiles were baptized into Judaism, they were identifying themselves with the Jewish people and Judaism as their religion. In believers baptism you identify with the death, burial and resurrection of **Messiah (Romans 6:1-23)**.

In the case of **John's** baptism, those who were baptized by **Yochanan**, which was a baptism of repentance, identified themselves with his message and prepared themselves to accept **the Messiah** and **His** Kingdom. **John's** message is not the same as believer's baptism. That is why those who were baptized by **John** later had to be baptized again into believer's baptism. One example of this can be found in **Acts 19:1-7** where disciples that had been baptized by **John the Baptist** were re-baptized into believer's baptism. They had received the message of **Yochanan**. They committed themselves by **John's** baptism to accept **the Mashiach** once **He** was made known. Unfortunately, they had left Isra'el before **Jesus** was identified as **the Messiah**. When they met Rabbi Sha'ul in Ephesus, he told them who **the Messiah** was. In keeping with their commitment when **John** baptized them, they received **Jesus Christ** as **Lord** and **Savior,** and so, Paul proceeded to baptize them into believer's baptism because **John's** baptism was not the same thing. We should keep in mind that the baptism **Jesus** underwent was not proselyte baptism, nor was it what we would call today believer's baptism, but it was **John's** baptism.[216]