

Behold Your Messiah

Week 2: Mikvah

Linear vs. Analogue Thought Patterns:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear: • Step-by-step progression • Cause and effect • A+B=C • _____ focused | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analogue: • Rely upon _____ to give meaning • “Spiral” thinking patterns • _____ focused |
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The rabbis would use *remez* to speak truth _____, that _____ would be the primary teacher, and that only those who were _____ enough to study would catch the reference.

Mark 1:4

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Those who came to John to commit the baptism of repentance “must not employ it to gain pardon for whatever sins they committed, but as a consecration of the body implying that the soul was already thoroughly cleansed by right behavior.”ⁱ

– Josephus

There is no true *repentance* without a _____ of behavioral pattern.

Mikvah required full immersion of:

- Head: _____
- Heart: _____
- Hands: _____
- Feet: _____

Mikvah was a symbol of _____ repentance, as well as a statement of _____.

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Exodus 19:10-11

The LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments ¹¹ and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

Deuteronomy 18:15

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers— it is to him you shall listen—

Jesus came to John to repeat the same _____ as the Israelites about to receive the fullness of their mission.

Psalm 2:7-9

I will tell of the decree:

*The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.*

*⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.*

*⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."*

Isaiah 42:1-4

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.*

*He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.*

He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Jesus was presented to John the Baptist and all who were taking part of this redemptive process as the Son of God, the Messiah, who would usher in the _____ of redemption, healing, and wholeness to Israel and all humanity.

Challenge: Ask God to reveal any misplaced expectations you might have of Him and to allow you to see Him with eyes filled with His Truth.

ⁱ *The Complete Works of Josephus Flavius, Antiquities 18.5.2, translated by William Whiston, 2004.*