

The Mikvah

"Waters of Eden" - The mystery of the Mikvah - by Ayreh Kaplan. An exploration of the concept of Mikvah. Renewal and rebirth. - it has been called the secret to Jewish survival - a mystical connection with the Garden of Eden. What is the Mikvah's fundamental connection to birth, marriage, conversion and death? - What does a Mikvah purify? - How can proper understanding of Mikvah bring happiness, freshenees and fulfillment to your life? - a revealing book that explodes old myths and prejudices and offers insightes never before available to the English reading public. Gathers concepts from the Bible, Talmud, Midrash, Kabbalah, Rashi, Rambam, Ramban and many others. - The first attempt to explore the ancient Jewish practice of spiritual purification and immersion, lucidly and attractively in contemporary English. - First edition 1976, Published by NCSY of the UOJCA, 333 - 7th Ave., NY, NY 10001, 91p., 8.5" x 5.5"



The Mikvah at Massada



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Ancient mikvah found in Gush Etzion



The Huldah Temple Gate



The Mikveh of the Temple

This mikveh in the above picture (ritual baptism of purification) was located to the south of the Temple close to the Huldah gate. It dates to the time of the Temple during the life-time of Jesus and the Apostles.

The Purpose of the Mikvah

The Mikveh was used for several different washings. They were all for a good conscience before God. The Mikveh was not a work of man, it was not invented by man. God is the designer and originator of this baptism (by baptism we mean immersion). There were several types of mikveh-baptisms. There was mikveh for women who completed their monthly cycle. This purification mikveh could be done at home and is the cause of the water pots where Jesus turned water into wine. It is said these contained water after the manner of the purification of the Jews. These waters of Mikveh were also for the washing of hands after being defiled by touching things unclean. They were used for washing clothes that might have become unclean by some contact with the profane. The waters of Mikveh were specifically designed to bring about sanctification. They were additionally the object for ceremonial washing and purification. In other words, whatever passed through the waters of Mikveh was then cleansed, purified, and sanctified, MADE HOLY!

Ancient Mikvah



2000 Year Old Mikvah

One side for going in and the other side for coming out before entering the Temple. One must be “purified” before entering the Temple of God.

The Mikveh at Qumran

